Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-92-013 *21 January 1992*

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Cuba

Council of State Commutes 1 Death Sentence

PA2901145892 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] The Cuban Council of State on 19 January ratified the death sentence by firing squad for Eduardo Diaz Betancourt, and commuted Daniel Santovenia Fernandez' sentence to 30 years in prison. Pedro de la Caridad Alvarez Pedroso, the third defendant, had been previously sentenced to 30 years in prison.

The three men infiltrated Cuba on 29 December 1991 from the United States, bearing weapons, grenades, and explosives to carry out acts of sabotage.

Havana Reports Commutation

FL2001131092 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] The State Council of the Republic of Cuba has commuted the death sentence of Daniel Cadelario Santovenia Fernandez to a sentence of 30 years imprisonment.

The nation's highest appellate body of executive power decided to not exercise its right to pardon in the case of Eduardo Diaz Betencourt.

Both men were sentenced by the Havana City Provincial Tribunal. The tribunal also sentenced Pedro de la Caridad Alvarez Pedroso to death. In announcing these sentences, the tribunal decided to commute the death penalty of Alvarez Pedroso to 30 years imprisonment.

The State Council of the Republic of Cuba, in a statement regarding Betancourt, declared that there are extenuating factors which amply justify the death sentence.

Execution Reported

FL2101013392 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0110 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] According to reports from the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY, the sentence against the sanctioned Eduardo Diaz Betancourt, dictated in case number one of 1992 from the center of Crimes Against State Security of the Provincial People's Tribunal of Havana City, was executed today.

Malmierca Comments on Relations With U.S.

PA1801025292 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2034 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who yesterday sat at the same table with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, today denied that there has been any change in his country's relations with the United States.

Making a brief statement to the media at this city's international airport, shortly before returning to his country, Malmierca said: "Secretary James Baker ratified his position on Cuba and my country confirmed its position."

Malmierca and Baker sat at the same table during a dinner offered yesterday by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari following the signing of the Salvadoran Peace Agreements.

The Cuban foreign minister said that at that meeting "there was no formal conversation (with Baker), there were only comments" on which he offered no detail. At the conclusion of his four-day visit to Mexico, Malmierca reiterated that "the relations between Cuba and the United States remain the same."

Last year, Baker and Malmierca met twice in the United Nations within the framework of multilateral meetings related to the crisis created by the Persian Gulf War, at a time when Cuba formed part of the UN Security Council.

Another high-level meeting between U.S. and Cuban officials took place in Mexico at the beginning of the eighties when then U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez met with the Mexican foreign secretary at the time, Jorge Castaneda.

Within the framework of the Salvadoran Peace Agreements, several chiefs of state who were present for the event commented on the death sentences imparted on two of three Cubans who arrived on the island from Miami to carry out destabilization activities.

Malmierca said that Baker did not raise this issue during the dinner and reiterated that the sentences against Eduardo Diaz Betancourt and Daniel Santovenia Fernandez, who were arrested on 29 December, will not be modified.

The third arrested, Pedro de la Caridad Alvarez Pedroso, was dealt a 30-year prison sentence.

Commentary Links U.S. With Counterrevolution

FL1701152392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Lazaro Barredo commentary]

[Text] Friends, for more than 10 years the U.S. Government has made human rights the focus of their huge political and ideological offensive against Cuba. Important U.S. figures have come to Cuba during this period: politicians, businessmen, academics, human rights specialists, criminal lawyers, and many others. They have been able to corroborate in situ the fact that the vast majority of the accusations against the revolution are much more than an intense disinformation campaign.

The characteristic action of the United States—with the support of the major American media, of course—is the effort to offer a distorted view of Cuban reality. There is a constant attempt to show, before public opinion,

political conclusions against Cuba that are not supported by any credible evidence. They are born from speculation. They are a mixture of unknown facts with unverified gossip. This great song and dance is manipulated by a group of experts who use these falacies to give legitimacy to the arguments that Washington's hysteria needs.

This is what is happening now with the three terrorists who infiltrated our country at the end of December, as well as the murderers in the tragic events of the Tarara Nautical Center. I say nautical center because the term nautical base was used, and abroad, especially in the United States, they are trying to say that it is a naval base. But it is a recreational nautical center that is connected with the Pioneers. It is not a naval base.

They are waging a great propaganda campaign in which terrorists and murderers are the unfortunate ones, despite the fact that they came to carry out criminal acts against the people in which children, women, elderly, and workers could die, while we the victims have become vulgar, heartless, and inhuman bums. It is for these men that they once again bring up human rights. Just a few hours ago in Washington, George Bush's spokesman expressed the hope that out of respect for human life the Cuban Government would not execute the terrorists. This man, Marlin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, also asserted that the decision to execute them is inconsistent with human rights principles.

How can the U.S. leaders ask for clemency now? How can they try to wash their hands, like Pontius Pilate, after protecting so much incitement to aggression? Are they not responsible for subjecting Cuba to a form of war for more than 30 years? Part of this war is the criminal economic embargo and intense political pressure which attacks our security and has provoked a permanent self-defense mobilization of the Cuban people as a besieged country.

For several years there have been denunciations even in the United States about the work that Cuban-American paramilitary organizations are doing. They publicly carry out military training exercises, because they seek a military solution to the Cuban case. The media in Florida promote and encourage them. They constantly recruit counterrevolutionaries to enter Cuba as spies and saboteurs, without any fear of being politically tried and sentenced by U.S. leaders.

Given these acts of complicity, we must ask where the financing for all this intrigue comes from? It is notoriously well-known that official U.S. institutions are behind most of the anti-Cuban operations. Just a few weeks ago, for example, the Miami press revealed certain characteristics of these links, noting how federal funds are allocated to support Cuban dissidents. Thus, the National Foundation to Promote Democracy alone allocated financial support of close to $500,000 during 1991 to promote seven projects supporting the cause of the dissidents in Cuba. According to that report, Karl Hirschman, the president of this foundation—which receives 100 percent of its funds from the U.S. Government to carry out policies favored by the administration—enthusiastically stated that Cuba is a priority. He said they were encouraged by the key role that this foundation had played in East Europe when they spent millions of dollars promoting and assembling dissident movements and other so-called human rights activists.

According to this Florida newspaper, in detailing the projects which this foundation sponsors, Hirschman mentioned a group based in Miami and connected to Gustavo Arcos, the representative in Cuba of the Cuban Human Rights Committee, which is headed in Miami by none other than that crook Ricardo Bofill, who received the funds. The same is true of the European Coalition for Human Rights in Cuba, which is headquartered in Madrid, and one of its top leaders is the terrorist Armando Valladares.

They have also given financing assistance to other organizations, such as the so-called Democratic Platform, and they include CIA destabilization projects against Cuba. Over the past several years, this official institution has also been financing, through major contributions, various projects of the elitist Cuban-American National Foundation, which is an organization of far right counterrevolutionaries in the United States.

Not only is this interference obvious, but so is the orchestration of the anti-Cuban hostilities. Arcos is the same man mentioned last night on television when the leader of the terrorist group confessed which persons they were supposed to contact if they ran into difficulties. This shows that the human rights groups are in one way or another part of the political aggression which the United States and its lackeys in Miami maintain against Cuba.

The roots of this matter were clearly defined in the testimony of the terrorist leader when he also declared last night that apparently there is a split in the opposition, with some favoring a peaceful approach and others a military solution, but he himself denied this when he said that all this is false, because in fact they are all part of a single policy which seeks to overthrow the revolution.

That is why it is so irritating to hear such indignant moralizing, which is all of a piece with the litany of hypocrisy that characterizes the political doctrines of Washington and its lackeys when they hit and run.

Reasoning of Clemency Requests by U.S. Criticized

FL1801143892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Lazaro Barredo commentary]

[Text] It is outrageous to hear the way clamorous voices are now asking Cuba for clemency and good sense concerning our duty to sentence the terrorists. This can be observed from the answers to recurring questions journalists have asked some Latin American figures over the past few hours, and it is the great chorus that the U.S.

media is magnifying with more intensive propaganda. This concern may be understandable and deserving of respect, but so is the legislated right of the Cuban people, who are risking the slaughter of their children because of the irrationality of this barbarism which is nourished, nursed, and tolerated abroad.

The unacceptable thing about the reasoning of a major part of these clamorous voices is that while they assume the pose of humanistic judges, with a tremendous lack of courage, they do not criticize those responsible for these monstrosities, the instigators of this kind of criminal activity, with the same degree of energy. Cuba is not the attacker, but the one under attack.

If our legislation includes capital punishment for these types of activities, it is due to this violent obstinacy abroad. Out of love for a dignified life, we have resisted the powerful cruelty of the superpowers for 30 years, and in spite of their enormous attacks, we have made social gains in protecting human beings. How can we be faulted for a lack of humanism, given the obvious proof of three individuals who land armed to the teeth and publicly acknowledge that they were going to put bombs in dance halls, theaters, and public places, to murder and create panic among the populace.

Who was going to benefit from the pretense of making these actions appear to have arisen internally? Who spends all their time manufacturing pretexts to justify an aggressive escalation against Cuba? These celebrities fail to mention, for example, the grotesque interference in Cuban affairs by Mr. Bernard Aronson when, in statements published on 8 October 1991 in DIARIO DE LAS AMERICAS, without blushing at all, he said that the United States is following the situation in Cuba very closely in all respects, and that it is designing a number of options with respect to the Cuban situation to handle the many scenarios that could occur here. Aronson has not revealed what these options are, but he has asserted that they exist, and even stated that the heads of various government agencies in the United States meet periodically to discuss and plan them. If the person in the U.S. Government responsible for policy towards Cuba is capable of stating such things as encouragement to the counterrevolution, who can deny the responsibility or complicity of the U.S. administration in these events?

But there are humanistic things generated by politicking. Cuba is asked to show good sense and clemency towards the three confessed criminals, but with a few honorable exceptions, no one has raised their voice as loudly when the press itself has reported on the drama that is unfolding in some of those same Latin American countries. The UPI news agency has just reported that death squads have been reestablished in some of them, this time to kill the so-called street children. It has been estimated that more than 7,000 children have been murdered since 1987, 7,000 children [repeats], by hit men, including members of the so-called state military police, who are paid from $30 to more than $250 for each street child they kill to eliminate the bother they cause to established businesses and their possible customers.

Or there is the level of social violence in another country. At the end of last year, secondary school students took to the streets to protest new public transportation fares, and six adolescents were killed. No one raised a fuss then. No one was scandalized by this grotesque event. The sixth congress of the Latin American Federation of Journalists, also at the end of last year, denounced the killing of more than 500 journalists in recent years in Latin America, the result of social marginalization and political intolerance which causes the practice of journalism to degenerate into an excessive form of violence with total impunity for those in power, who manage to act outside the states and governments, which themselves do nothing to prevent this.

But that is the way things are. The United States does not demand from its allies the requirements they want to impose on Cuba in human rights matters, nor do they comply with them themselves, because more than 35 million Americans are victims of the brutal violence that shakes the United States. This violence is not only practiced by criminals, but also includes police repression, which causes tremendous social panic in that nation. Several American experts have asserted more than once that the United States is not in a position to preach to anyone about humanistic penal codes. In the so-called Western Hemisphere, the United States is the country with the highest rate of imprisonment in the world, a prison population exceeding 1 million people serving their sentences under inhumane and difficult prison conditions. What is more, according to 1989 figures, there were at that time more than 1,900 inmates of U.S. prisons who had been sentenced to death and were waiting to be executed. That society is that pitiless, and these reports have not been manufactured in Cuba. They come from famous American publications.

Slander can be magnified like so many other times, but neither the hypocrisy nor demagogy of those who act with a true lack of humanism can alter the truth. It is not Cuba but the United States that has always lacked good sense.

Report on Role of Unified Vigilance System

FL1701205392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Report by correspondent Mario Humbert Garrido at Plaza Municipality in Havana on 16 January—recorded]

[Text] [Garrido] The will of the people has again been upheld in Zone 75 of Playa Municipality where I just witnessed an exemplary trial in which the prosecutor's office requested a sanction of 10 months imprisonment for the six people accused. Once more the Unified Vigilance and Protection System [SUVP] proves its worth. What do you believe is the importance of this open trial?

[Unidentified court member] Well, precisely one of the most important functions of justice is its educational nature. This trial and the one to follow, result from the achievements of the Unified Vigilance and Protection System, one of the programs implemented by our revolutionary government and which we believe is most effective. Thanks to this system we coordinated all the arrangements to conduct these trials. These trials have the objective, first of all, of educating the people. As you might have been able to witness, the theft took place because of the carelessness of a bicycle owner. This is one of the things we want to accomplish through these trials, to make the citizens aware that they have to protect their property and also ensure that the people understand state policy regarding crime, that we are going to be severe, that the people cannot be left unprotected, and that we, the prosecutors, the courts, even the lawyers are the representatives of the revolution and are on the front line defending precisely the fatherland, the revolution, and socialism.

[Garrido] Armando Crebo is in charge of the Unified Vigilance and Protection System in this area of Playa Municipality where we have just witnessed this trial. What is its importance and how is it organized?

[Crebo] The Unified Vigilance System here in District No. 75 is structured to include a SUVP chief, a party representative, a delegate of the People's Government, a sector chief, and two members from mass organizations, that is the delegate of the Federation of Cuban Women and the coordinator of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution.

[Garrido] Therefore, the system encompasses all the people, not only the police.

[Crebo] Right, if the police does not have the people's support, like any other organ of the ministry, it would find it impossible to carry out such an enormous task. This is very important right now when we have to close ranks to fight crime.

Mounted Police Brigades Formed in Matanzas

PA1701175092 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2013 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Havana, 16 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Cuban authorities have formed mounted police brigades in the rural municipalities of Matanzas Province, where three counterrevolutionaries landed on 29 December.

The new brigades are comprised of workers and peasants from Matanzas Province, 100 km from Havana. The brigades maintain close contact with the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Interior Ministry.

According to Major Roman Cabrera, head of the Interior Ministry's Matanzas branch, the brigades fundamental mission is the preservation of plantations, equipment, and warehouses, which are often the target of criminal actions due to their remote location.

Santiago de Cuba, the country's second largest province, has also formed 247 peasant patrol detachments. These brigades have more than 8,700 members.

The Interior Ministry reported that all these patrols are armed, perform vigilance duties 24 hours a day, and are ready to fulfill any mission to fight crime or counterrevolutionary actions.

The difficult economic situation, especially the scarcity of food, has resulted in increased criminal activities, which the government describes as counterrevolutionary, in several Cuban provinces.

Last year, the Cuban Government created a single vigilance system, which consists of the participation of the majority of the people to prevent criminal or counterrevolutionary actions.

The single vigilance system was designed by the authorities to face all kinds of criminal activities—antisocial, antieconomic, or aimed against the revolution.

One of the most important actions carried out by this new system was the arrest of three counterrevolutionaries who landed in Cardenas, Matanzas Province, on 29 December.

Eduardo Diaz Betancourt, Daniel Santovenia, and Pedro de la Caridad Alvarez Pedroso were arrested by members of the single vigilance system.

According to Colonel Orlando Jordan, a high-level Interior Ministry official, the single vigilance system was created to guarantee public order and collective security, as well as to protect state and private property.

He explained that several state, police, and organizational measures were established to unite all factors under the direction of the Communist Party, at the various levels, to prevent and fight criminal activities and antisocial behavior.

The program was well accepted by the population and the best results, so far, have been obtained in Santiago de Cuba, Las Tunas, Holguin, and Matanzas Provinces.

In addition to the Interior Ministry and the People's Government in the 14 provinces, the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, the Cuban Women's Federation, the labor unions, and other organizations are participating in the single vigilance and protection system.

Security Personnel Praised at Havana PCC Plenum

FL2001191992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] The Havana Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] has held its first plenum of 1992. The strategic exercises of the Unified Vigilance System and the decoration of Interior Ministry combatants, who were recognized for their participation in the pursuit and capture of the culprits from the criminal acts

at the Tarara nautical base, were the highlights of the meeting held this weekend in the province.

In summarizing the Havana Province PCC plenum, Victorino Lemus, first PCC provincial secretary, confirmed that ensuring the people have food is one of the main aspects of the strategic policies of Havana during the special period. He stated that more than 10,000 production and service workers are permanently assigned to mobilizations related to the main tasks, specifically, the food program. He gave assurances that this province will exceed its commitments.

Rafael Collazo, member of the PCC Provincial Politburo responsible for the agriculture and livestock sector, said the winter harvest has reached 63 percent of what was predicted; surpassing by more than 1,400,000 quintals what was collected in the previous stage. The 1992 planting plan is 72.9 percent complete. Remaining to be planted are 661 caballerias of vegetables and fruits. This will require that at least 17 caballerias be planted daily through the end of February. It was also reported in the plenum that the province has 14,000 family gardens. Guines and Havana rely on a new cold storage system to store the harvests and they have adopted a distribution program so that the products reach the people in good condition. It also ensures the return of empty bottles.

During the meeting, in which the progress of the sugar harvest was analyzed, I should report that 235 new services were created in Havana, 600 centers are capable of being self-sufficient, and 700 cafeterias cook with firewood. Horses are gradually being used more in garbage disposal and the use of oxen in agricultural labors continues to expand.

With regard to strategic exercises, the efficiency of the Unified Vigilance and Protection System in Havana Province was demonstrated with a testing and improvement exercise which was held from 13 to 17 January. During the final meeting, presided over by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, PCC Politburo member, and Division General Carlos Fernandez Godin, Central Committee member and first vice minister of the interior, it was reported that the system will be implemented throughout the whole country.

At the closing session, Machado Ventura confirmed that it is undeniable that the basic concepts of the system are correct, but it is necessary to correct its application and improve it. The political leader reiterated that the system does not exempt anyone from their responsibilities. The system functions when each comrade fulfills his function efficiently.

Victorino Lemus, first PCC secretary in Havana, when informed of the results of the demonstration, stated that in this period of time (?crime) has diminished 33 percent. He reported that the most outstanding municipalities in developing the exercises were San Antonio de los Banos, San Jose de las Lajas, Madruga, Mariel, Santa Cruz del Norte, and Guines.

Lastly, the Interior Ministry [Minint] [word indistinct] consisting of Havana Province Minint leaders, combatants, and civilian workers who distinguished themselves in the search for and capture of the authors of the criminal acts in the nautical base of Tarara, were decorated in a solemn ceremony presided over by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, PCC Politburo member, and Division General Carlos Fernandez Godin. Security and internal order medals of the first and second class, granted by the State Council, were awarded there. The act of honoring the combatants was made in gratitude for risking their lives in order to guarantee the success of the operation and the effective application of the United Vigilance and Protection System. Other combatants, who distinguished themselves in the mission, received the Minint distinguished service award.

Workers Thwart Attempted Warehouse Armed Robbery

FL2001203292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] The exemplary attitude of Andres Perez Romano, 50 years old, manager of the La Mina warehouse, located on Union Street at the corner of Villa Josefa, stopped three criminals from achieving their goal of robbing the abovementioned warehouse on 17 January.

At the warehouse's closing time, two masked subjects carrying .38-caliber revolvers entered the warehouse. They left one person standing guard outside by their bicycles. One of the masked men pointed his gun at Perez Romano while the other man removed the money from the cash box and other products allocated for the population.

However, the criminals did not count on the revolutionary attitudes of the manager; Irma Masa Gonzalez, an employee; or Orvelia Rodriguez Pictorero, wife of the manager, who were also present during the incident. With truly heroic behavior, they thwarted this crime. Andres Perez Romano, taking advantage of the carelessness of the criminals, jumped on the armed man, hitting him hard with a weight. In the course of the struggle, the other criminal was wounded when the revolver went off. So, with the aid of the other two comrades present, they were able to defend the establishment with broom sticks and other means until the robbers fled.

Minutes later the National Revolutionary Police took into custody Alfredo Diaz Pringas, 35 years old, resident at E Street, number 9, between Third and Fourth Streets, Vijia section. He was the one carrying the firearm. The other masked man, Elvis Estade Carrero Villas, 19 years old, had gone to the provincial hospital as a result of being wounded with the revolver. The National Police and members of the United Vigilance System are currently searching for the third suspect.

Accords Signed With Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

FL2001143192 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] A high-level Cuban Government delegation has signed separate five-year commercial and economic cooperation agreements with the Republics of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The Cuban Embassy in Moscow issued a press note reporting that the Cuban delegation was headed by Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas and the Cuban Ambassador in Moscow Jose Ramon Balaguer.

The news release added that during their stay in the capital of Kyrgyzstan, the members of the Cuban delegation met with the prime minister, the foreign minister, the public health minister, and other government leaders of this Central Asian country. During the meetings, held from 14 to 16 January, they analyzed matters of bilateral interest, development prospects, ties with the separate republics, and the changes which favored the independence and sovereignty of Kyrgyzstan, as well as the indirect relations which both countries have maintained for decades.

In Tajikistan, the visitors met with the ministers of economics, foreign relations, commerce, agriculture, and public health, as well as other leaders of the republic, from 16 to 17 January. The press release stated that they discussed commercial exchanges and economic cooperation, and stressed the numerous existing possibilities to promote cooperation in diverse endeavors such as sugar production and public health.

Earlier, Cuba had signed collaboration agreements with the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and the city of St. Petersburg among other organizations of the disappeared Soviet Union.

Russian Foreign Ministry Official on Relations

PA2001004392 Paris AFP in Spanish 0339 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Jan (AFP) —Valeriy Nikolayenko, Russian deputy foreign minister, said in Mexico City on 17 January that Russia will maintain formal relations with Cuba in the economic field, although there has been "a certain reduction in the total volume of trade, but in essence, relations continue to be excellent."

Shortly before returning to his country, which he represented at the signing of the Salvadoran peace agreements, Nikolayenko said that commercial relations with Cuba in 1992 are being studied, and "will be based on international prices; there will be no subsidies or preferential treatment."

Although Cuba will be treated the same as any other country, "we will maintain the good relations that both countries developed during 30 years of friendship," Nikolayenko stressed.

Comparison of Capture of 'Infiltrators'

PA1901142892

Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish at 0130 GMT on 17 January carries a 60-minute rebroadcast of the special program entitled "In Fraganti."

This version has been compared with the Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks version published in the 17 January Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 1 to 4, and found to be identical, revealing the following variations:

Page 1, column one, paragraph one, sentence four reads: On 18 September 1991, two more citizens of Cuban origin linked to counterrevolutionary organizations illegally entered the country from the United States. (supplying indistinct words, rephrasing.)

Page 1, column one, paragraph two, last sentence reads: Given these acts and their unquestionable nature of violating and threatening the revolution, the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba ordered the increase in the people's vigilance of our national territory organized under the Unified Vigilance and Protection System. (supplying indistinct words, rephrasing)

Page 1, column one, last paragraph, sentence one reads: Daniel Candelario Santovenia Fernandez, born on 2 February 1955 in Cardenas, Matanzas; son of Zoila and Daniel, who was member of Batista's police and a mercenary of the Bay of Pigs; single; educational level, ninth grade. (supplying indistinct words)

Page 1, column two, paragraph two, last sentence reads: He said he lives at 160 North West 17th Court, Miami, United States. (providing different address)

Page 3, column one, paragraph eighteen, only sentence reads: [Diaz] Jesus Yanes Pelletier, Humboldt 157 Altos, Vedado 4A 670-0700. (providing different telephone number)

Page 3, column one, penultimate paragraph, last sentence reads: His brother: Sebastian Arcos Bergnes, house 12605, corner of Street 10, Aldabo District, Havana. (providing different address)

Haiti

Army Opposes Negotiated Solution With OAS

PA2001230992 Paris AFP in Spanish 2210 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Jan (AFP)—According to a statement read over the government-run radio station, the Haitian Army's rank and file will resist, with their weapons, any negotiated solution that includes overthrown President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the OAS. The statement, drafted with harsh words and signed by three soldiers—Sergeant Jean-Robert Saint Eloi, Corporal Ermet Frontus, and Private Leslie Pierre—"was

approved by all the military companies in Port-au-Prince," the radio station, controlled by the provisional government, added.

"We vow to fight, to our last breath and with the strength of our weapons, before abandoning our beloved homeland to the extravagances of the hungry wolves of the OAS and the wandering Jew Jean-Bertrand Aristide," the soldiers who signed the document stated. "We, the patriotic soldiers, are willing to occupy all strategic places in the country, standing behind General Raoul Cedras (Army Commander), the soldiers added.

"More than ever we are determined to raise our weapons rather than fall prey to the flames of the Aristide and lavalas (avalanche in Creole and name of Father Aristides' political movement) hordes," the document adds.

"Who is Aristide? He was overthrown and he signed his resignation," the soldiers stated.

The soldiers concluded their communique with the words: "Down with the criminals and grave diggers of the homeland who want to sell her at all costs to the OAS colonizers."

This week the Haitian parliament must discuss its next meeting in Washington, under the auspices of the OAS, to attempt to find a negotiated political solution to the serious political crisis in Haiti.

Aristide Urges Removal of Cedras From Office

FL1701131392 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has repeated his call for removal of Army Chief of Staff Raoul Cedras. Mr. Aristide made the statement in the U.S. state of Georgia yesterday while on a visit to the Carter Center in Atlanta. He said democracy is not possible in Haiti until the coup leader is removed from office. The former Haitian president says he believes pressure from the 34 members of the Organization of American States could bring about such a move. He will meet with representatives of the OAS in Washington tomorrow.

Senate Split Over Negotiations Versus Elections

FL1701195792 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELISTE in French No 34.218 16 Jan 92 pp 1,7

[Text] Three-and-a-half-months after the 30 September coup de force, the senators are still divided on the direction to take; whether to choose the negotiated solution, or to opt for elections as provided for in Article 149 of the Constitution. The first opinion was represented by parliamentarian Rony Mondestin; while Senators Judnel Jean, Franck Leonard, Serge Joseph, and Bernard Sansaricq openly expressed their views in favor of the second option during yesterday's session.

Senate President Dejean Belizaire, along with several other senators, refrained from giving his opinion after suggesting in vain that the debates be held in camera. Quaestor Julio Larosiliere, without openly expressing his opinion regarding this alternative, suggested the creation of a bicameral commission of five members at most, in charge of "making contact with the various institutions concerned, especially the executive, the judicial, and the Armed Forces of Haiti."

The idea of this commission seems to have received the agreement of the Assembly, although divergence remains on the role of that commission. If for Senator Larosiliere, the commission would be to guide the resolution of the upper chamber, for Senator Turneb Delpe, the commission, on the contrary, would be to explain the Assembly's resolution to the different sectors.

For Senator Mondestin, "strongly" supported by his colleague Wesner Emmanuel, the commission would need to be mandated to "negotiate with the executive the agenda for letting go of the Nerette/Honorat government in order to apply the negotiated solution."

Senator Mondestin is in charge of writing a proposal to be submitted for discussion today. Asked by the bureau on the "opportunity" for a vote on President Nerette's mandate, the Assembly decided to wait.

Theodore Declines Invitation to OAS Meeting

[Passages in italics in Creole]

FL1701181392 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Prospective prime minister Rene Theodore will not participate in the Washington meeting. Unified Party of Haitian Communists leader Rene Theodore will not take part in the meeting scheduled for tomorrow in Washington to find a solution to the Haitian crisis. This meeting will be held at the initiative of the OAS. Let us listen to his explanation.

[Begin Theodore recording] *As announced by the press, the OAS has invited me and a delegation from the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate to go to Washington for a meeting with Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide and several OAS officials on 18 January. I consider the Washington meeting important because it is an opportunity for the parties involved in the negotiations—the Haitian parliament, Father Aristide, and the OAS—to finally define in black and white all the points they agree on. I, Rene Theodore do not think I should participate in this meeting because there is still no agreement outlining conditions and modes of application of the solution that the OAS, the presidents of the two chambers, and Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide reached on 8 January.* [end recording]

Thank you, Mr. Rene Theodore. So far, only Mr. Medard, president of the Chamber of Deputies, and two

other deputies have responded positively to this invitation. The OAS voted a commercial embargo against Haiti on 8 October in an effort to force the return of the ousted priest-president to power and to end the diplomatic isolation of the country.

The OAS has linked the lifting of the embargo to the ratification of a new consensus prime minister endowed with wider powers. The person presented for this post of prime minister is Rene Theodore.

Parliamentarians on Invitation

FL1701003792 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Interviews with Dejean Belizaire, president of the Senate; and Alexandre Medard, president of the Chamber of Deputies, by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—passages in italics in French]

[Excerpts] The OAS has announced a meeting for Saturday, 18 January at its headquarters in Washington, the capital of the United States, to find a negotiated solution to the Haitian crisis. The OAS has invited ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide; Dejean Belizaire, president of the Senate of the Republic; Alexandre Medard, the new president of the Chamber of Deputies; and Rene Theodore, prime minister-designate. Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton and Deputy Pierre Duly Brutus, the outgoing president of the Chamber of Deputies may also be part of the Haitian parliamentary delegation that should leave the country to attend the Washington meeting.

We met with the president of the Senate of the Republic, Dejean Belizaire who stated that he does not yet know if he will go to Washington. He said the invitation has been submitted to the Assembly, which is authorized to decide on the matter.

[Begin recording] [Belizaire] *I have put the invitation before the Senate of the Republic. It is up to the Senate of the Republic to decide what the president of the Senate must do in this case.*

[Correspondent] The president of the Senate further said that the Assembly must meet today about the issue. Senator Belizaire added that if he travels to the OAS meeting, he will raise many questions that must be discussed and that have not yet been discussed with all the parties that will be around the table. The issues include the conditions of the agreement on the resolution that the OAS presented as a condition for a political solution to the crisis. [passage omitted]

The president of the Senate also pointed out that Senator Dupiton, who also may travel with the delegation, has raised some conditions to be satisfied before he travels to Washington. Senator Dupiton reportedly advised that he will travel only if he receives a mandate in due form from the executive. Senator Belizaire thinks the executive must now reclaim its rights.

[Belizaire] *Senator Dupiton has brought up a very important constitutional point; that is, he will not agree to go there unless he receives a mandate in due form from the executive which is—by the way—the only authority entitled to negotiate in the name of the country according to Article 139 because you know very well that Parliament's role in the negotiations is either to ratify or to reject.*

[Correspondent] *But Dupiton was already involved in the negotiations.*

[Belizaire] That is clear. You know, we were living through a very specific moment. The executive accepted him for that for a long time as he has always participated with us in discussions or negotiations. But I think that what was said at the National Assembly indicates that the executive wants to regain its rights.

[Correspondent] Senator Belizaire, who did not want to say if this meeting will represent the final phase of the negotiations, added that the future of the steps that are being taken now depends on a consensus that must be established between the executive and Parliament. Otherwise, there will always be confusion. Senator Belizaire stated that the OAS must take into account when the senators can leave for negotiations and when they cannot. [passage omitted]

[Belizaire] *If the OAS wants to negotiate with us, it must take into account our difficulties, our problems, and then schedule itself to be present when it is possible for us to be present.*

[Correspondent] *What does that mean? What does that mean, Mr. Belizaire?*

[Belizaire] *That means we would like to answer the OAS' invitation, but if we cannot answer today.... [changes thought] As we are not those who have called this meeting with the OAS.*

[Correspondent] *Then, there are many reasons why you will not leave for Washington?*

[Belizaire] *I cannot assume that. Parliament must discuss it today.*

[Correspondent] *Today?*

[Belizaire] *Yes.*

[Correspondent] We also met with Chamber of Deputies President Alexandre Medard. He said he will leave with Deputy Duly Brutus to participate in the negotiations during a meeting to be held in Washington. He explained that the critical situation in the country allows him to acknowledge that the portfolio is very complex and that society is divided on the issue. Medard added that he wants to resume dialogue but that he refuses to play into the hands of the extremists.

[Medard] [Passage omitted] *If I visualize leaving with the former president of the Chamber of Deputies, it is for an exact reason, it is because he participated in all the rounds*

of negotiations and is well versed on the subject. I want to have him with me for his wealth of knowledge, which he has accumulated over these past few months, about the national crisis.

[Correspondent] Three other personalities including Evans Paul, the mayor of Port-au-Prince; Micha Gaillard, a member of the National Congress of Democratic Movements which is a social-democrat party; and Dr. Jean Moliere are also expected to participate in the meeting, which will be held under the auspices of the OAS.

The OAS will be represented by its secretary general, Brazilian Joao Baena Soares; Bolivian Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Iturralde; the president of the ad hoc OAS Foreign Affairs Ministers Committee on Haiti; the mediator of the Inter-American organization in the crisis, former Colombian Foreign Affairs Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo; his assistant, Mr. Mario Gonzales who is also a Colombian; and the OAS representative in Port-au-Prince, Canadian Laurent Paul Tardif. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Plot To Murder Aristide Loyalists Unveiled

PA2001033392 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2351 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 19 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Haitian deputies reported on 19 January a "plot to murder some legislators because of their political opinions" and their loyalty to overthrown President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Joseph Fignole Jean-Louis, president of the Public Works Commission; Samuel Milord, secretary of the Public Works Commission; and Samuel Madistin, president of the Chamber of Deputies Justice Commission, released a letter reporting the events.

The plot "was planned at two meetings," the deputies stated in their letter. "The first meeting was organized on the night of 16 January by the Port-au-Prince police antigang service, to murder Deputies Joseph Fignole Jean-Louis, Samuel Milord, and Samuel Madistin."

The report, to which NOTIMEX had access to on 19 January, said that "five deputies of the 45th legislature took part in the meeting (with the police) to give information about the new Chamber of Deputies presidency."

"According to the deputies present, if the (murder) plan is not implemented, there will be great difficulty for the legislature to approve the interpretation (by the de facto government) of Article 149 of the Constitution."

"The second meeting was held on 18 January...with the presence of recently released former torturers called Ti-Pail and Mirabeau Petit-Homme.

Numerous officers (dressed in civilian clothes) took part in the meeting and each one received 1,500 gourdes (about $300) as compensation.

The signers of the letter claim that "the name of Alexandre Medard, Chamber of Deputies new president, was added to the list of deputies that should be murdered."

The letter ends: "We report this plot to the world and our country, as well as to the Republic's authorities."

Russia Denies Sending Arms to El Salvador

PA1601150092 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2039 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Mexico City, 15 January (NOTIMEX)—Valeriy Nikolayenko, special representative of the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry, stated here on 15 January that Russia denies having sent arms to El Salvador, and praised the peace agreements to be signed in the capital on 16 January.

Nikolayenko also expressed his interest in establishing bilateral relations with El Salvador, and in looking for ways to develop mutual cooperation.

Nikolayenko, the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry's special representative at the Salvadoran peace agreements signing, noted Russia had never sent arms to El Salvador and suspended arms shipment to Nicaragua in 1988.

On arriving at Mexico City's airport, Nikolayenko said the Russian Federation Government cannot directly help in rebuilding El Salvador. He did, however, express the possibility of establishing mixed enterprises and for the two countries to exchange machinery.

Nikolayenko said Russia is exploring establishing diplomatic relations with El Salvador. He is confident the peace agreements will result in a new era of peace for the Salvadoran people.

Nikolayenko said El Salvador should use the resources the United States will be sending for military aid "for reconstruction, political development, and democracy."

Endara Calls Bomb Threats Psychological Warfare

PA1701224992 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2013 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Jan (EFE)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara told EFE in Mexico on 17 January that the bomb threats in his country are part of a "psychological war by enemies of democracy," whom he did not identify.

This week there were several bomb threats in Panama, and an explosive device exploded on 16 January in a well-to-do neighborhood of Panama City, which destroyed a vehicle and shattered the windows of several homes.

The president attributed some of the threats to the M-20 [20 December Movement], an alleged guerrilla group which in the past has attacked U.S. and Panamanian Government concerns. The group emerged following the U.S. invasion of Panama in December 1989.

Although M-20 is a source of mystery for Panama's politicians and authorities, it has been linked to supporters of deposed Panamanian General Antonio Noriega, who was captured by U.S. troops and is now facing prosecution in Miami on charges of drug trafficking.

Concerning the friction that emerged between Panama and Mexico last year due to criticism expressed by both governments, Endara said relations are now excellent.

Our "relations are completely normal," asserted the president, who on 16 January attended the ratification of the Salvadoran peace agreements in the Mexican capital.

With regard to the bickering that has taken place over the past few weeks between the Panamanian police and members of the U.S. Army stationed in the canal area, Endara said only that in the latest case, according to a Panamanian citizen who was wounded, were the foreign troops at fault.

Cuban Tourism Office Opens in Mexico City

PA1601151592 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Cuba is open to any tourism investment from European and Latin American countries. Cuba expects to increase its tourist traffic by 50 percent this year.

The first Cuban tourist exchange was opened in Mexico City on 14 January. It is intended to increase the country's tourist development program.

Luis Cantillo, general manager of Cuban Tourist Enterprises, said tourist development projects will push tourism revenues to third place in the Cuban economy. Cantillo stated that in 1991 over 250,000 tourists visited the island, including 30,000 Mexicans.

Tourism to Cuba is expected to increase by 50 percent this year, following last year's 17 percent increase. Cantillo said Cuba is open to any tourism investment proposal from either European or Latin American countries.

Cuban Ambassador to Mexico Jose Fernandez de Cosio attended the ceremony. Despite the 30-year economic blockade on his country, he said the best defense will be the people's unity.

[Begin Fernandez recording] The best defense is to trust our own strength and maintain our autonomous development of socialism. [end recording]

Regarding Cuba's inclusion in the San Jose Pact, Fernandez said Cuba has not even considered the possibility.

* Veteran Engineers Dispute Oil Reserve Figures

92CA0067A Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 788, 9 Dec 91 pp 16-21

[Report by Pascal Beltran del Rio]

[Text] Fifteen years of a "dreadful oil policy," based on exaggerated estimates of national hydrocarbons reserves, have brought the country to the brink of an energy crisis of "unpredictable scope," says Francisco Inguanzo Suarez, the dean of Mexico's petroleum engineers.

As a result of the "irrational" exploitation of wells since 1977, he says, numbers in hand, the deposits have undergone an accelerated depressurization, which has forced Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) to undertake costly projects to keep them flowing. The "almost zero exploration" that Pemex has done over the past decade, combined with the age of the oil fields in production, the "voracious appetite" [for oil] overseas, and mounting domestic demand, "put us in danger of having to import crude oil by 1998 at the latest."

Inguanzo, who was the number two man in the Pemex hierarchy from 1964 to 1976 and has worked in the industry for half a century, and petroleum engineer Francisco Alonso Gonzalez, recently did a detailed study on the status of the primary-production branch (exploration and development) of Mexico's oil industry. The two have tried to show it to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, but the request for an audience that they submitted to Los Pinos [official presidential residence] last June has not received a final reply.

Much of the close to 100-page document refers to the proven reserves of hydrocarbons, the estimates of which Francisco Inguanzo supervised in the first half of 1988 at the request of the general manager of Pemex, Francisco Rojas Gutierrez. According to the numbers cited by Inguanzo and Alonso, Mexico's oil potential is 50 percent smaller than officially stated.

Pemex has contended that the country's total hydrocarbons reserves stand at a little over 64.5 billion barrels, 68 percent of which is crude oil in its "Maya" (heavy), "Istmo" (light), and "Olmeca" (extra light) varieties. The figures is from Pemex's 1983 announcement that put reserves at 72.5 billion barrels, from which the output of the past eight years has been subtracted. The Secretariat of Energy, Mines, and Parastate Industry (SEMIP) reported this past 28 September that between 1989 and 1990 total proven hydrocarbons reserves declined by 950 million barrels of oil from 66.45 billion to 65.5 billion.

This mistake, which was "completely intentional" in the words of Francisco Inguanzo and Francisco Alonso, dates back to the start of Jose Lopez-Portillo's term (December 1982), when the then general manager of Pemex, Jorge Diaz Serrano, "asserted that reserves amounted to 16 billion barrels, even though it was a fully established fact that they were just 6.38 billion at that time." The retired petroleum engineers say that the reserves of crude oil and gas converted to a liquid equivalent stood at 33.065 billion barrels as of 1 September 1988. The current amount, given the production over the past three years, is 28.879 billion.

The more than 35-billion barrel difference between the two estimates, Inguanzo and Alonso say in their study and in a lengthy interview with this reporter, "represents the big hoax that has been maintained for so long." It has to do mainly with the Chicontepec Basin (a geological zone located in the states of Veracruz, Puebla, and Hidalgo), which the parastate company has estimated as containing 17.5 billion barrels (one-quarter of reported reserves). Officially, Pemex is not developing this reserve owing to technical difficulties and lack of budgetary funding. Inguanzo and Alonso say that Pemex is not doing so because the reserve does not exist. "At most there are a billion barrels, which are commercially not worth extracting."

The technical explanation of Chicontepec that they offer is as follows: "This formation presents a very complicated, difficult to interpret stratigraphy. The thicknesses of the strata are very irregular, as are their lithology and degrees of cementation, and as a result each well poses an individual problem.... The permeability of the rock in the deposit, which is a highly cemented sandstone with silica and carbonates, reduces the flow of hydrocarbons very strikingly, and thus in a few days the initial output declines by a high percentage, increasing the gas-oil ratio, with a very low volume of the latter."

Inguanzo and Alonso note that of the 63 exploratory wells drilled in the area from 1976 to 1983, only 13 showed any hydrocarbons whatsoever. Most of them turned out to be unexploitable, yielding as they did 99 barrels a day each on the average. The offshore wells in the Bay of Campeche alone put out some 14,000 barrels of crude a day.

The Chicontepec Hoax

Doubts about the true potential of the Chicontepec Basin have reached the U.S. Energy Department. Last July the Petroleum Finance Company gave the department a study in which it puts Mexico's crude-oil reserves at 32.5 billion barrels. "The difference between the official 46.2 billion barrels," it underscores, "and the lower figure of 32.5 billion is due to less optimistic assumptions about the recovery percentages from the Campeche and Chicontepec basins."

According to Francisco Inguanzo, the reason that hydrocarbons reserves were exaggerated starting in 1976 was "to justify a wasteful oil policy" because "there are regulations for the development of oil wells which could be complied with only if the potential of the wells was greater."

"So, wasn't there a mistake in the estimate?" he is asked.

"Listen, if we lived in a country where things were done for the most part honestly, the most unskilled petroleum engineer in Pemex would say that the Chicontepec reserve is a joke. No, of course not. This was a completely intentional lie, and it is being kept alive by authorities who are giving in to overseas pressures on us to hand over more and more of our wealth."

The 78-year old Inguanzo was one of the three Mexican petroleum engineers who stayed in the country after the oil expropriation in 1938. He was put in charge of drilling work in the El Plan field in southern Veracruz, where he supervised the start-up of the first development

well under the auspices of Mexican Petroleum. During Adolfo Lopez Mateos's term he was assistant manager of development, and from 1964 to 1976 served as Pemex's assistant director of primary production.

In November 1990 Inguanzo told reporter Luis Suarez how General Lazaro Cardenas "once again rescued our oil" at the start of Gustavo Diaz Ordaz's term. In late November 1964, he related, a teaching colleague, Guillermo Lopez Herrera, who headed the Department of Mines and Energy of the Secretariat of National Patrimony, revealed to him a federal government plan to lease the development of much of the continental shelf in the Gulf of Mexico. They removed the documents from the secretariat, with difficulty, and spoke with Cardenas. Without displaying concern, Cardenas managed to have the planned lease, which the American driller E.W. Pauley would have gotten, canceled.

Today Francisco Inguanzo is trying to "get the attention of the highest authorities so that they will reconsider how the oil industry ought to operate." He is calling for the "definitive renewal" of the agency that was created in 1938, in order to "correct the deviations that it has suffered during some periods of its existence" and to preserve its "original ideology."

He charges that "overseas but also at home" attempts are being made to "compromise the production" of hydrocarbons in Mexico. In the document, which is entitled simply "Mexican Petroleum," he mentions U.S. Congressman Jim Kolbe, who last 15 November said that Mexico ought to assure the United States a supply of a million barrels of oil a day. "The Mexican authorities must realize that this is not possible. We already export almost 800,000 barrels a day to the United States, and that is an awful lot. Output and exports must drop drastically. What is more, given the current situation, it will not be advisable to export after 1994. I realize that there is a financial problem, but we are looking at an energy mess that could have unpredictable long-run consequences."

Inguanzo and Alonso cite their figures again in explaining that Mexico will no doubt have to import oil in 1998 "or perhaps before."

The actual status of the deposits, they say in their study, jeopardizes future production because pressure is being lost due to overdevelopment. "Depending on the overall characteristics of the deposit, between 40 and 45 percent of its volume can be obtained as the flow life [vida fluyente], which is the one of maximum productivity." They say that once this "natural" cycle is over, artificial extraction systems have to be applied, such as pumping or injecting water or gas into the wells, which make commercial operation much less profitable.

"No matter how large the estimate of its proven reserves, a deposit has a definite economical rate of development-...(which) is independent of its volume. Overdevelopment of a deposit brings a major loss of the nonrenewable resource and causes permanent damage to its performance."

Dying Deposits

The engineers refer back to 1976, saying that 16.994 billion barrels of the then existing reserves, plus new discoveries over the past 15 years, which total some 39.5 billion barrels, have been extracted since then. This comes to 43 percent, which is already very close to the limit of the flow life of the deposits. They foresee that for this reason production will begin to decline as of 1993, when it will become impossible, given the existing deposits, to sustain the current extraction pace of 2.68 million barrels of oil a day, of which 1.377 million are exported.

They add that Pemex "has done practically no exploration work over the past decade." They cite Pemex's annual report, submitted this past 18 March, in which the general manager, Francisco Rojas, acknowledged that "the natural phenomenon of deposit depletion is taking place, not having been offset over the past decade by authorization of sufficient spending on exploration and development." They assert that even going by official figures, "reserves have declined steadily since 1983" inasmuch as "an extractive industry that does not explore or discover or produce the raw material it requires tends logically to disappear as such."

To prove their assertion they note that Pemex already has a secondary-recovery system in the Cantarel area in the Bay of Campeche, which posts the highest production in the country. According to information furnished by the parastate company, 720,000 barrels of treated water a day are pumped into the wells to boost their productivity.

Besides these facts, Inguanzo and Alonso point to the growing domestic demand for fuel. According to official figures, the country's gasoline consumption rose from 359,000 barrels a day in December 1988 to 481,000 barrels a day in November 1991, an average of 11 percent a year. In the case of diesel, in 1988 184,000 barrels a day were consumed, compared to 223,000 a month ago, an average annual increase of 6.6 percent.

A projection that the two petroleum engineers did, based on a five-percent yearly rise in domestic demand and an annual production decline of three percent, showed that Mexico would have a hydrocarbons shortfall in less than seven years. According to their calculations, domestic demand will then stand at almost 2.85 million barrels a day, while output will have fallen below 2.8 million barrels a day. In 1998, they predict, the country will have to import some 13 million barrels of crude oil. The number jumps to 147 million in 1999 and to 266 million

in 2000. Current reserves, which they estimate at 28.879 billion barrels, will decline over the same period to 19.149 billion.

They caution that the coming crisis may arrive sooner if domestic demand accelerates or may moderate "if corrective policies are applied immediately." One of them, they say, is intensive exploration. "It takes from eight to 10 years for exploration work to yield profits in the commercial extraction of oil. We are way behind."

Francisco Inguanzo says: "Mexico learned back in 1972 and 1973 what importing oil means. And we had a tough time of it. Back then we suffered because of the blunders and corruption in Pemex during the term of Adolfo Lopez Mateos. The then general manager, Pascual Gutierrez Roldan, agreed to pay private drillers for work that did not benefit the country."

Between 1958 and 1964, Inguanzo explains, 3,185 wells were drilled; 1,739 of them were sunk by private drillers, including businessman Jorge Larrea and General Radames Gaxiola, who was President Lopez Mateos's pilot. "None of them had drilling experience," Inguanzo says; "they got the leases just because of personal connections. They bought equipment with Pemex's collateral signature and employed its workers. The result was disastrous: there was drilling all over, but production and reserves remained stagnant. Owing to the terms of the contracts, their machinery could not remain idle, and they had to be given sites, many of which obviously did not turn out to be productive. At the close of the six-year term, in fact, several wells were left unfinished."

In November 1964, as Lopez Mateos's term was about to end, Inguanzo drafted a document on the consequences of the drilling contracts instituted 15 years before. He recalls that he explained the problems to a Pemex board meeting and tried to submit the study to Pascual Gutierrez Roldan, who became furious and rejected it. Among the setbacks he pointed to at the time to was the 400 percent increase in operating costs. In a way he foresaw the crisis into which Mexico's oil industry would be plunged eight years later.

"What difference do you see between the situation back then and the one now?"

"I think that the one back then was not as pressing. Of course at that time something much more serious was being attempted, handing over the continental shelf, which was stopped. There is no such talk now, but there is talk of contracting the drilling out en masse overseas, as part of the Free Trade Treaty. The claim is that this will not endanger the subsoil, but I ask myself: With what are these drillers going to be paid? Obviously with the proceeds from the sale of the oil that they are going to find."

Other Fantasies

The first example of what could be coming in the oil industry under the economic liberalization that the federal government is spurring is the work that the U.S. firm Triton International did in the Bay of Campeche. From last April to August the company drilled the Takin 1 offshore well 70 km north of Ciudad del Carmen. Pemex started contracting these services out again in 1977.

The well, which cost Pemex $17 million, is 5,210 meters deep. After it was finished, the superintendent of the Pol-Alfa complex in the Bay of Campeche, Alejandro Hernandez Ramirez, told a group of reporters who visited the offshore platforms on 13 September that the project had discovered a new oil field capable of putting out some 900,000 barrels of oil a day. Four days later, his report was denied by the parastate company, which said, in contrast, that the potential of the stratum had yet to be determined.

Inguanzo says that he has spoken with engineers and workers who were close to the Triton project. "They told me that the equipment used by that company is not much different from what Pemex has and that the drilling work was not as promising as reported." In a 24 September press release Pemex even criticized the work of Mexican drilling companies, saying that Triton had completed Takin 1 in half the time that they take for wells of a similar depth. One of the failures of the domestic contractors is the Kix well (also offshore), which recently went out of control as the La Central company was drilling it.

"Pemex has shown throughout its history that it can perform its work safely and inexpensively," Inguanzo continues. "I know that there is the argument of inefficiency, but this is the fault of the periods of poor management, not of the workers. And now all of the problems are being blamed on the workers. The so-called reconversion of Pemex has meant only personnel firings. It is not fair when an enterprise that was founded for the country's benefit is dismantled by the decision of a few. Pemex is capable of spurring progress in Mexico, but it needs the funding that it has been denied in recent years."

He explains that the presidential decree creating Pemex was amended in 1964 so that it would hand over most of its revenues to the Treasury. "Before this change Pemex operated like a private company. In other words, it paid taxes but it had capital that it invested to grow. During the terms of Gustavo Diaz Ordaz and Luis Echeverria the general managers of Pemex, Jesus Reyes Heroles and Antonio Dovali Jaime, were able to reverse this provision and hold on to Pemex's earnings without restrictions, with the consent of the two presidents."

According to Inguanzo, Reyes Heroles's and Dovali's terms of office represented a "second expropriation" of oil. "Don Jesus was the most honest man I have ever dealt with. The truth is that he gave me a very cold welcome when he was appointed manager. He knew

about all of the fuss that I had kicked up about the contracts. I was the first one he called into his office and right away he scolded me. He told me that I was a terribly stubborn person: I replied that I was tenacious. He asked me to cancel all of the contracts and to gather up all of the equipment. On that day, in mid-December 1964, I became an assistant manager of Mexican Petroleum."

He continues: "Much of the work that we did during that six-year term involved completing the hundreds of wells that the contractors had left half-finished. We explored, and reserves and production started rising. In 1970 we managed to extract 304 million barrels of hydrocarbons. Things were going fine, but the damage done between 1958 and 1964 got to us and caused a crisis during the next six-year term. I did not want to stay on after 1 December 1970, but Reyes Heroles and Dovali asked me not to leave the Subdepartment of Primary Production. The work that we did during those two six-year terms gave definitive momentum to the industry, but the momentum was misunderstood and the company went from consolidation to wastefulness."

Inguanzo, who also taught at UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico], relates that during the second half of Echeverria's term Mexico was pressured to begin exporting huge amounts of oil. He says that during the meeting between the presidents of Mexico and the United States in November 1974 on the border between the two countries, U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger made the request for more exports to the United States, citing reports of major hydrocarbons finds. According to Inguanzo, Echeverria turned the conversation to other bilateral issues, arguing that Mexico was not sure the reserves existed.

"I had some heated arguments with Echeverria," Inguanzo says, "especially about the unionization of engineers, but I think we have to admit that at that moment he remained steadfast about Mexico's interests." He also relates that in mid-1976, shortly before the peso was devalued, there was a two-day and two-night meeting in Los Pinos to look into possible solutions to the financial crisis of the time.

"Several members of the economic cabinet, like the director of the Bank of Mexico (Ernesto Fernandez Hurtado), wanted to resolve the problem by exporting oil. Dovali and I were opposed. In the end, the choice was devaluation. I must say that the secretary of finance (Mario Ramon Beteta) made a significant contribution, saying that if the engineers were against exporting oil, they ought to be listened to. As we were leaving Los Pinos, we ran into the president, and of course he chewed me out, but he stuck with the decision."

"You [plural] were happy...."

"That's what you think. We were disappointed because we knew that we were in an economic jam and that the president was trying not to devalue the currency. The important thing to me was not to harm the oil industry. Afterwards, though, when a few months had passed and I realized what was happening in Pemex, I got to thinking whether I had been unfair with the president.... Yet, if we had agreed to that solution, we would have set a terrible precedent as engineers."

Diaz Serrano's Numbers

The precedent was set by Jorge Diaz Serrano, according to Inguanzo. "I was at one of the six-year evaluation meetings when I was almost dragged out of it to attend a work session of the incoming cabinet. Diaz Serrano claimed in his address that the country's proven reserves exceeded 16 billion barrels. We had just calculated them and placed them at 6.38 billion. I said I disagreed with him. His reply was to disparage me; he said that even the U.S. press was talking about reserves of more than 15 billion barrels. We argued. Jose Lopez-Portillo, who was there, called off the meeting and told us to return the following day. Annoyed, he asked me whether I would attend. I told him that I could not possibly make it at the indicated time because I had to be at an event with the president. He asked me to set the time, and thus I could not refuse. But the same thing happened again, and I told them categorically: 'You are wrong. But if that is your opinion, well, go ahead.'"

In December 1976 Inguanzo visited Diaz Serrano at Pemex headquarters "out of sheer curiosity." Diaz Serrano asked him to stay on with the parastate enterprise, which he declined to do. Inguanzo relates: "I told him: 'It is not a good idea for either of us. I would be worse for you than a bed with bedbugs.' He realized and signed off on my retirement. I left the industry as of then, but how the numbers were handled has never ceased to amaze me. By January 1977 we already had 16 billion barrels of proven reserves, according to the official figures."

In 1983, Inguanzo and Alonso emphasize in their text, "proven hydrocarbons reserves of 72.5 billion barrels were announced, and it was mentioned that if probable and possible reserves were added in, there could be as many as 300 billion barrels.... The world price of crude oil then collapsed, and we were left with a huge foreign debt at very high interest rates. A very high percentage of the proceeds from massive exports of the discovered reserves had to be allocated to service it."

They note: "The increase in reserves since 1977 is out of all proportion to the number of development wells drilled, this being the activity that generates proven reserves. Thus, the people who know something about this activity realized that what was being announced was incorrect and unethical. It is very odd that international banks provided the funding that was requested without duly verifying the proven reserves.... From the outset of the term the proven-reserve figures were falsified and the deposits under production that were discovered previously in the Chiapas-Tabasco area were exploited in an uneconomical, excessive fashion."

Starting in 1980 Inguanzo made "six attempts to ascertain with the authorities the status of the nation's proven reserves of hydrocarbons." On 14 December 1987 he

was invited to a Mexican Petroleum "brotherhood" meeting at the "Sir Winston Churchill" restaurant in Mexico City.

Rojas's Ignorance

"I had retired long before," Inguanzo recalls. "After introducing me, Francisco Rojas asked me how many years I had worked for Pemex. 'Well,' I told him, 'if by Pemex you mean the oil industry, close to 50.' 'Ah, so you must have a lot to tell,' he replied. It made me very angry, because if you invite someone, the least you can do is find out who he is. The meal had already been served when I addressed myself to Rojas: 'Mr. General Manager, I have been out of this for years. Could you tell me what the proven reserves of hydrocarbons are?' There was silence. Thirty seconds later I said to him: 'Never mind, sir. I was just curious. In any case what you were going to tell me was a lie.'"

At the close of the get-together Rojas told Inguanzo: "Listen, you are going to have to prove what you said." "With pleasure," he replied. The general manager of Pemex then proposed that he take charge of estimating the reserves. Inguanzo relates: "I did not want to do it personally because the findings that I would come up with would be immediately disavowed. So I proposed that I be allowed to choose three engineers to do the calculations and I pledged to supervise them."

The work took eight months. In September 1988 they arrived at the figure of 33.065 billion barrels, with a disagreement over the Chicontepec Basin, this time an 8-billion barrel one, an amount that Pemex insisted on including. (In 1981 Pemex had put together a development plan for that area under which between 800,000 and 1.6 million barrels a day were to be extracted "around 1992"; OIL AND GAS JOURNAL of the United States published the plan.) Inguanzo was asked to keep the estimates confidential.

The former official goes on to say: "In 1976 we left behind a sound enterprise with a lot of work ahead of it, but in optimum conditions as to reserves and production capacity. The fact is that we felt that Mexico's economic situation was altogether resolved. Today Mexican Petroleum is being dismantled. If six years of corruption were overcome in the past through good management, why isn't an attempt being made to do so today? In its 53-year history the enterprise never lost control over its primary functions. Why has it begun to today?"

He relates that during the early months of operations of the nationalized industry the foreign firms were astonished at the ability of Mexican engineers. "Many people forget that we were being embargoed, that we had no spare parts. So we manufactured the ones we needed. They even sent a woman geologist, disguised as a reporter, to find out what we were doing. When I was in the El Plan field, in July 1938, I could not believe what we had accomplished, with technology that was even better than foreign technology."

"Today they are making off with our finest engineers and sending us experts from the outside, when the operations would be a lot less expensive with domestic equipment and personnel. When Michoacan Deputy Natalio Vazquez Pallares told me in the 1950's that Pemex was wrong to sign risk and drilling contracts, I smiled and told him that there was no other way to finance the industry. The recent announcement that drilling will be leased out seems unthinkable to me and is a great injustice to those who have done their part to consolidate Mexican Petroleum."

Two months ago Pemex called on Mexican and foreign firms to bid on the drilling of nine exploratory wells in the Bay of Campeche. The work will tentatively begin late this January. In remarks to the press on 13 November, Jaime Zabludovsky, the coordinator of the negotiating unit of the Free Trade Treaty, confirmed that contracting these kinds of services abroad is being discussed. With such contracting and with foreign loans of some $20 billion (only 10 percent of it assured), Pemex hopes to boost hydrocarbons reserves and production over the next five years.

El Salvador

Cristiani Pleased With U.S. Pledge of Support

PA1701213692 San Salvador Radio Cadena Horizonte in Spanish 1815 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani is pleased with the U.S. commitment to support national reconstruction efforts now that the war is over. Hilda Quijano reports:

[Begin recording] [Quijano] Cristiani was pleased with the commitment of the U.S. Government to support the national reconstruction effort our country has begun within a climate of peace. Through Secretary of State James Baker, who visited our country, the United States has vowed to exert efforts to support the difficult reconstruction tasks now that the war is over. In an optimistic tone, Cristiani expressed his satisfaction with the willingness of George Bush's administration to back the tasks that must be carried out to reconstruct and reconcile Salvadoran society.

[Cristiani] I agree with it, especially with regard to what I view as most important: the fact that the peace process did not end with the agreements yesterday, it started then. Now is the time for all to begin to work our country's reconstruction and reconciliation to truly consolidate peace. I believe this is important and, thus, expressions of support and the willingness to support this new era that has begun in our country must be appreciated.

[Quijano] Although no figures were mentioned, the satisfaction of obtaining financial and political support from the United States and other countries was obvious in the president's remarks to the press. However, international support should not be the only ingredient in the reconstruction effort, said Cristiani, it should be the duty for all Salvadorans.

Concerning the peace agreement signed in Mexico on 16 January, the president said violence must be totally eradicated, and he expressed his government's resolve to reject all who are opposed to the consolidation of peace.

[Cristiani] I am equally critical. I believe that violence should no longer exist in our country, that it must end, and that we must fight against any sectors that attempt to pursue violent methods regardless of their political or ideological identity.

[Quijano] The negotiating process between the government and FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] that has concluded touched on the socioeconomic issue. On this point the president clearly stated that his administration will not modify its current structural adjustments program, but that it will intensify its policy of increased social attention to the most severely affected areas.

[Cristiani] The government's economic policy is not up for discussion. We are dealing with ways to improve relations between workers and businessmen, and the immediate means of complementing the programs intended to ease the effects of the structural adjustment. In short, basically we are seeking certain measures that may prove necessary during this transitional phase, measures that could create the social stability that the country needs to get off to a good start and ensure everyone's well-being.

[Quijano] The strengthening of social policy is an effort to counteract the still visible effects of the economic adjustments introduced by Cristiani's government. It will be a priority at the outset of this new phase during which thousands of former fighters will gradually join civilian society. This is in line with the spirit of the government's reconstruction program, which prioritizes attention for residents of areas in conflict. [end recording]

Reaction to U.S. Position

PA2001025692 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Report by Fausto Valladares; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Valladares] According to Democratic Convergence Deputy Juan Jose Martell, Secretary of State James Baker was clear about U.S. support for the peace agreements between the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in Mexico on 16 January. He was very vague, however, about the economic aid needed to reconstruct the country.

[Martell] "He only said they are going to make an effort, they are going to continue helping, with the international community and the United Nations, but he did not make a specific commitment. We were expecting something more concrete because we believe the United States is obligated to give at least the same amount of money for reconstruction efforts as they did for us to kill each other."

[Valladares] Martell says, however, that Mr. Baker was quite clear about U.S. support for the recently-signed peace agreements.

[Martell] "First, the United States will support the peace agreements signed on 16 January; second, the United States is concerned about possible acts of violence caused by the left or right. What particularly caught my attention was the special emphasis he made of right-wing violence, even accusing them of being traitors."

[Valladares] Regarding the amnesty that must be agreed to before 1 February, Deputy Martell says that this should cover only military actions; not war crimes.

[Martell] "We believe the Truth Commission should clarify events. Once these events are clarified, we should only then decide who should receive amnesty. War actions are one thing; war crimes are something else.

War crimes are condemned by international legislation. If we declare a total amnesty now, the Truth Commission loses all its incentive."

[Valladares] Deputy Martell said that the 16 January ceremony was a historic and memorable event highlighted by President Cristiani, who broke with protocol and shook hands with the guerrilla commanders about to reenter the country's civilian life.

Ghali, Cristiani Emphasize Support for Agreements

PA2001034792 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 18 Jan 92 p 5

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali was in San Salvador on 17 January for approximately 12 hours. During this time he took the opportunity to meet with Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] officials, pay tribute to the slain Jesuit priests, and meet with President Alfredo Cristiani.

Mr. Ghali pointed out that "I am leaving San Salvador 12 hours after my arrival. I would like to remain longer, but at this time it is impossible." On 16 January, Mr. Ghali presided over the signing ceremony of the peace agreements in Mexico City. On the night of the same date, he departed Mexico and headed for Central America [as published] where he met with Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano. That same night he also arrived in El Salvador.

According to Mr. Ghali: "The complex responsibility of verifying the fulfillment of the agreements signed on 16 January in Mexico City falls on Onusal. Jointly with Onusal officials, we have proceeded to review the planning and preparation required for these wide ranging tasks. Onusal will fulfill this mission with objectivity and professionalism."

Mr. Ghali added: "My meeting with President Cristiani centered on the implementation of these historic agreements. President Cristiani emphasized the Salvadoran Government's commitment to honor the agreements, and I have received equal assurance from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. I trust that El Salvador has finally embarked on the journey toward peace. With this visit, I would like to pay tribute to the numerous persons who lost their lives in their efforts to establish respect for human rights."

ONUSAL Forces To Begin Arriving 20 Jan

PA1801014192 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2020 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Spanish General Victor Suanzes, chief of the ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador] contingent, said on 17 January that over 900 "blue hats" will start arriving in El Salvador on 20 January to verify the peace agreements.

"I can see that everyone wants to cooperate, that there is an atmosphere of optimism, and a desire to move toward the future," Suanzes told the press while discussing the work Onusal will undertake as of 1 February, when the definitive cease-fire goes into effect.

"I believe the process will encounter some difficulties but it will succeed, Suanzes pointed out.

The UN mission in this country, which in August and November 1991 presented two reports concerning the human rights situation, has been criticized by the government and right-wing sectors who believe it is not entirely fulfilling its mission.

ONUSAL was created in May 1991 as part of the agreements reached by the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

The first observers installed the mission on 26 July 1991 to verify, first of all, observation of the human rights agreements. Pakistani Iqbal Riza, the organization's director, has stated repeatedly that the observers will totally fulfill their mandate until there is peace in El Salvador.

FMLN Directorate To Maintain Ties With Cuba

PA1701225592 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1958 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Havana, 17 Jan (EFE)—Salvadoran guerrilla leaders asserted on 17 January that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] Directorate will maintain its ties with Cuba; they said they are completely convinced that their joining the country's political life will entail serious risks.

Commander Gustavo Rodriguez and guerrilla Alfredo Ramirez said at a news conference in Havana that all the ties the organization has had with Cuba up to now will be maintained "because of the many connections they have had with the Cuban party."

Ramirez, who traveled from Mexico to the island to oversee efforts to repatriate maimed Salvadoran guerrillas who are in a camp in Havana, pointed out that Salvadoran relations with Cuba at the government level constitute "another reality, because the Salvadoran Government is a rightist government."

Military Chiefs To Serve 'Several More Months'

PA1701162692 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Official sources have reported that according to the latest orders issued by the Defense Ministry, the recently appointed high-ranking military chiefs will serve as commanders and directors for several more months.

The explanation was made in view of the imminent reduction and purge of the Armed Forces Council, as agreed on in Mexico by the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front guerrillas. At least 25 military changes were announced in

December, including new commanders for the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th Infantry Brigades, the National Police and several military detachments.

FMLN Leader Confident of Security Measures

PA1701231492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0018 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Jan (EFE)—Salvadoran Guerrilla Commander Joaquin Villalobos has told EFE that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] does not fear the death squads. He added that the FMLN has confidence in the security measures included in the peace agreements signed with the government in Mexico City on 16 January.

The FMLN leader has stated that he does not believe massacres, such as those that took place in Colombia when members of M-19 [19 April Movement] abandoned their weapons to enter civilian life two years ago, will happen in El Salvador. He said Colombia is a different country and a different reality.

The guerrilla commander stated that the government is responsible for the guerrillas' security and the cease-fire, which is to begin on 1 February and last until 31 October, at which time the war will officially end.

"It is very dangerous for any sector to play dirty during this stage because the FMLN fighters will continue to have weapons during this nine-month period," Villalobos stressed.

The guerrilla leader predicted that the "death squads will have to demobilize because the Salvadoran people will impose peace."

Villalobos, one of the commanders who signed the peace agreements with Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani and an official delegation on 16 January, asserted that "this act is a reality that will crush all the death squads."

"Those who do not want peace and are tempted to destabilize the situation will not be able to do so. They have no future," he added.

"I can imagine how the people will feel and how they will see those who try to reverse the peace process," Villalobos observed.

The peace agreements, which were concluded at the United Nations on 14 January, also include personal security measures with diplomatic and UN guarantees.

Villalobos indicated that these guarantees include the process to change the configuration of the police corps and the new public security.

"We know the process may encounter difficulties, but we expect to confront them in the best possible manner," he stated.

In his statements to EFE, Villalobos said he trusted there would be no problem turning the FMLN into a political party. This conversion will officially go into effect in three months, but in practice it is already a reality.

The FMLN—formed when the Salvadoran civil war started in 1980—has been a political force for quite some time, said Villalobos. He noted that the peace agreements only set a schedule for the organization's formal legalization.

Villalobos said he did not believe the FMLN would suffer division now that peace had been attained. He highlighted that the FMLN had demonstrated it was capable of changing with the pragmatic and mature way it had negotiated the agreements with the government.

Cristiani's Signing of Agreements Termed Positive

PA1701150492 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2341 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Rebel Commander Franciso Jovel stated here on 16 January that the fact that President Alfredo Cristiani decided to sign the peace agreements is a "positive" gesture.

Jovel added that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) General Command always considered Cristiani's signature necessary "because everybody was waiting" for him to sign the agreements.

It had been announced by both sides that the Salvadoran peace agreements would only be signed by members of the government and guerrilla negotiating commissions, however, Cristiani also signed them.

At a news conference, Cristiani denied being pressured into signing the peace document and said that he feels his signature gives more power to the document.

Jovel stated that "Cristiani's signature is a message to the entire nation, as the Salvadoran people had been going through a strong climate of reconciliation." He noted that this will give an impetus to reconciliation in El Salvador.

Jovel added that Cristiani's attitude is a message "to the ultra right wing sectors trying to obstruct the agreements, as any effort to do so will oppose constitutional authority."

With the signing of the peace agreements at the Chapultepec Castle on 16 January, the government and the FMLN ended the 11-year war resulting in 75 deaths [as published].

Interparty Commission To Submit Amnesty Bill

PA2101010992 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Report by Julio Ernesto Rodriguez]

[Text] [Rodriguez] The members of the Interparty Commission today agreed to present a staggered general amnesty draft bill to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and the government. The

National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, Copaz, has tried for more than a week to find a mechanism to legalize the status of guerrilla delegates who are Copaz members to shield them from private lawsuits.

However, according to the guerrillas, there is an impasse because the measure would include Army personnel who are charged with serious human rights violations. Interim Copaz Coordinator Ciro Cruz Cepeda said the political parties agreed to submit this draft bill in Mexico City on 21 January:

[Begin Cruz recording] We have in principle agreed that this should be a broad, general, staggered, and timely law. What does this mean? By staggered we mean that in the beginning there could be amnesty for FMLN leaders who are Copaz members, for those who will become members of Copaz subcommissions, and in turn, for those who will become members of yet other groups resulting from these subcommissions.

An amnesty would be granted to former FMLN members who become members of other commissions, as established by the peace agreements. Amnesty would also be granted to the war disabled, political prisoners who have not yet been tried or condemned, and combatants. The Truth Commission would then start operating. A general amnesty for all Salvadorans would be decreed by 31 January. [end recording]

[Rodriguez] To some degree, this position is shared by the Nationalist Democratic Union, UDN. According to UDN General Secretary Mario Aguinada Carranza, the possibility of an amnesty exists, but the truth commission first has to finish the investigations on Army violations.

[Begin Aguinada recording] We agree that at some point there has to be a general amnesty to further reconciliation. However, the truth commission and the ad hoc commission for the purging of the Army have to complete their work before such an amnesty can be implemented. We did not reach an agreement on this issue today, but we will continue to debate it at Copaz. A modification with regard to the possibility of a staggered amnesty has been presented, but it still must be discussed. [end recording]

[Rodriguez] Armando Calderon Sol, the president of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena, argued that a general amnesty would allow for a broad reconciliation process in the interior of the country. According to the Arena politician, this is the only way for the rebel delegates to Copaz to enter the country.

[Begin Calderon recording] We have also been talking about the need for an amnesty to encompass all [word indistinct] to the Salvadoran democratic process. We have been discussing all the variables for an amnesty. According to the agreements reached by all the political parties, we... [pauses] there are established guidelines [word indistinct] on the need to grant amnesty. This is seen by all. This is accepted by all. We agree on the need to grant a staggered amnesty as the agreements stipulate. [Words indistinct] some points on which we still have differences and have not reached an agreement. For example, when will it take place? When will the amnesty be general? These are the differences that still stand and we hope to reach an agreement on these points soon. A bill will be presented to the Assembly on 23 January. After that, it will be published and legal as of 1 February. [end recording]

[Rodriguez] In any case, the amnesty law is being expedited because the final peace agreements stipulate that Copaz has to be officially installed on 1 February and the rebel delegates, such as Joaquin Villalobos, Francisco Jovel, and the members of the subcommissions, must be present to be sworn in. However, FMLN Commander Guadalupe Martinez has said that they are not willing to trade their legal freedom for the freedom of soldiers who have been charged with human rights violations.

Clandestine Radios Broadcast From San Salvador

PA1701160792 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0059 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Report by Jose Luis Castillejos]

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Jan (NOTIMEX)—For the first time, clandestine radio stations Venceremos and Radio Farabundo Marti broadcast on 16 January from San Salvador's civic square, outside the National Palace. They broadcast a special program to celebrate the peace agreements in El Salvador.

After stating that beginning 16 January Radio Venceremos will broadcast from San Salvador, station director Commander Santiago noted that "Salvadorans won the war through peace."

"The guerrillas who came down from Morazan Mountain are representatives of the people," the guerrilla announcer stated.

Radio Venceremos began broadcasting in a clandestine manner "to express the voice of the rebels."

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front operated, until today, "deep in the jungle," as Commander Santiago described the radio station's surroundings.

For the first time in their history, the rebel radio stations joined a national network of five television channels and 58 radio stations to broadcast from the Chapultepec Castle, Mexico City, the signing of the final document of the peace agreements.

Channels Two, Four, Six, and 12, devoted over 90 minutes covering the ceremony. Earlier, the television stations had given wide coverage to the situation in the 14 departments of the country.

As part of its programming, the television stations unexpectedly broadcast images of the war.

Hertzian waves flooded El Salvador's 21,0000 square kilometers with messages of peace and reconciliation.

According to the local press, El Salvador will soon cease to be "news," since "there will no longer be violent incidents to report."

Signatories of Agreement, Support Document Listed

PA1701212792 Paris AFP in Spanish 2329 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Jan (AFP)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani and five guerrilla commanders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] signed the peace agreements in Mexico on 16 January. This document was backed by eight Latin American chiefs of state and the Spanish prime minister.

Here is the list of signatories:

On behalf of the Salvadoran Government:
Alfredo Cristiani, president of El Salvador
Oscar Santamaria, presidency minister
Colonel Mauricio Vargas, assistant chief of the Armed Forces General Staff
Hernan Castro, comptroller general
David Escobar Galindo, assistant rector of the Matias Delgado University

On behalf of the FMLN:
Commander Shafik Handal
Commander Salvador Sanchez Cerén
Commander Francisco Jovel
Commander Eduardo Sancho
(all of them members of the FMLN General Command)
Salvador Samayoa
Marta Valladares
Ana Guadalupe Martinez
Dagoberto Gonzalez
Roberto Canas
(all of them members of the FMLN Political-Diplomatic Commission)

Eight Latin American chiefs of state and the Spanish prime minister, witnesses at the ceremony, signed a "Declaration of Support" for the peace agreement:

Felipe Gonzalez, Spanish prime minister
Cesar Gaviria, president of Colombia
Carlos Andres Perez, president of Venezuela
Carlos Salinas de Gortari, president of Mexico
Rafael Calderon, president of Costa Rica
Violeta Chamorro, president of Nicaragua
Jorge Serrano Elias, president of Guatemala
Guillermo Endara, president of Panama
Rafael Callejas, president of Honduras

In the declaration, they expressed their "support for UN Secretary General" Butrus Ghali, for the "verification and vigilance of the implementation of the agreement.

Guatemala

Government, Rebels To Resume Talks in Mexico

PA2101035892 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Jan (NOTIMEX)—This week in Mexico City, the Guatemalan Government and rebels will resume negotiations on the issue of human rights to put an end to the armed conflict. This was reported on 20 January by a spokesperson of that Central American nation. Manuel Conde, head of the government commission to the peace talk, said that the talks with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] could resume late this week. The government of President Jorge Serrano Elias and the rebels met on 26 April 1991 for the first time in 30 years of armed conflict to agree on an 11-point negotiation agenda. Most of the points on the agenda, including the topic of democratization, have already been broached, as have the strengthening of civilian power, the duties of the Army, and the identity and rights of indigenous peoples.

Conde said that the negotiations on the topic of human rights "are going well" despite the obstacles confronted by negotiators on both sides.

The negotiating agenda included the topic of resettlement of the people displaced because of the armed conflict and the basis for the incorporation of the rebels to political activity. Among the most difficult topics are the definite cease-fire and a timetable for its implementation, the military demobilization, a mechanism for fulfillment and verification, and the signing of the peace agreements.

Judge Lemus Responds to U.S. 'Interference'

PA1901180192 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0345 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City believes that a Guatemalan judge currently in charge of drug related cases is also involved in drug trafficking activities. The charges were personally rejected by the judge on 16 January.

Judge Oscar Lopez Lemus, of the sixth court of the First Instance Penal Proceedings, conversely stated that the U.S. Embassy is interfering in judicial proceedings and threatens some judges by using inappropriate and illegal methods.

According to Judge Lopez Lemus, the charges made by the U.S. Embassy against him and the decision to cancel his visa to enter the United States are completely baseless.

[Begin recording] [Lemus] By this conduct, the U.S. Embassy is interfering with the way decisions should be made in the courts, because it is harassing the judges by using slanderous and insulting measures. There are other methods that could be used. It would seem that they are

not receiving any legal advice as to how to protest a decision if it does not please them. According to the Constitution and the law we must come to some decision in the courts, and we therefore decide on some incidents. However, the fact that we have opposed an extradition request does not mean that I am unfit to serve as judge or that I am a dishonest man. I am a well-known person, and I have never been accused of any crime, or charged with having participated in any illegal activity. I have been involved in the judicial system since 1959, and I have never encountered this type of dilemma before. I have noticed that they are not protesting the decision, but they have resorted to various methods to harass me. This clearly conveys a message to the other judges involved in drug related cases who will now hesitate before making a final decision.

[Reporter] What has your reaction been to the serious charges brought by the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala related to your involvement in drug trafficking connections?

[Lemus] It is more unfavorable to them than it is to me. It carries negative results for them. They have so naturally involved me in illegal activities. I have never been involved in any type of illegal negotiations. If they had any evidence they would have taken some type of concrete action. So far nothing has been done. It is only because of the ruling I recently passed that they are reacting this way. I strongly protest because the charges are completely false. Furthermore, any other disclosure they decide to make will be lacking credibility.

[Reporter] Do you believe your life is in any type of jeopardy?

[Lemus] Well, my conscience is at ease. I have done no wrong to anyone. It is difficult to say.

[Reporter] What contacts have you had recently with the U.S. Embassy with respect to the withdrawal of your visa?

[Lemus] I do not... [pauses] I requested the visa three years ago, maybe more, but I had never traveled. So you can see that they are trying to show reprisal with a simple visa. I do not care really, but that is not the legal recourse, is it?

Judge on Michael Devine Murder Trial

PA1901184992 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] The courts continue to review the judicial proceedings related to the June 1990 murder of Michael Devine in Peten Department. Napoleon Gutierrez Vargas, the president of the martial court who is handling the case, reports on its status.

[Begin recording] The proceedings with regard to U.S. citizen Michael Devine were forwarded to this martial court from the military court, in view of an appeal presented by the parties. They are not pleased with the release orders handed down by that court. Captain Hugo Contreras Alvarado, Colonel Mario Roberto Catalan, and Col. Guillermo Portillo Gomez were granted freedom.

The martial court has found that the military court has not complied with the law by granting freedom to Capt. Hugo Contreras Alvarado because there is sufficient incriminating evidence against Contreras.

Now, with regard to the release of Col. Mario Roberto Catalan and Col. Guillermo Portillo Gomez, the courts decision does comply with the law, because there is no evidence against them at this time. Thus, the order to release them was upheld.

At this time notifications are being made to the interested parties, who will review such notifications, and the case will be opened if they have any evidence to enter, and a ruling will then be handed down. The process will be returned to the military court as soon as the parties have been notified.

Defense Minister Says CDC To Remain

PA1701222092 Guatemala City I RENSA LIBRE in Spanish 15 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] The Committees for Civil Defense [CDC] will continue with their activities as long as there are rebel groups, Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa said on 14 January, referring to the alleged violations of human rights by these groups.

International organizations that are watching over the human rights situation in Guatemala have reported constant violations of these rights and several cases have been attributed to the CDC, previously called the Civilian Self Defense Patrols, PAC.

Minister Garcia Samayoa said that any specific information about these violations should be investigated to establish responsibility, but all the CDC's cannot be blamed for everything as these were formed by residents of various communities to defend their properties from the terrorist groups. He added that the rebels previously occupied towns, destroyed private homes and public buildings, and kidnapped residents. Such extremes forced the civilian people to form committees to defend themselves from the attacks by the rebels.

He emphasized that these groups are being criticized by the groups that want to put an end to the CDC's, precisely because these hinder their respective plans. In other words, guerrilla support groups have always tried to mar the image of these committees because they do not allow the rebels to occupy towns as easily as they did in the past.

Therefore, the possibility of dismantling these committees is not being considered at this time. Nonetheless, whenever there are no terrorists, the government might

consider this possibility. Gen. Garcia Samayoa reiterated that the committees are made up of residents of various communities who join these groups voluntarily.

Nicaragua

Lacayo Says Baker Visit 'Highly Beneficial'

PA1801161892 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo described U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's 17 January visit to Nicaragua as highly beneficial. Baker met with President Violeta Chamorro, National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar, and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo during the visit.

Lacayo said he talked to Baker about the importance of U.S. support for the consolidation of the democratization process in Nicaragua. The United States will soon provide Nicaragua with technical assistance for the demining [desminado] of the entire national territory as well as more than $200 million, which could be contributed this year.

Lacayo said he talked to Baker about the need to promote foreign investment in Nicaragua, saying the government is aware that there must be security for investments. Lacayo said the government is making an effort to professionalize the police. We spoke about the Army, but placed a greater emphasis on the police, Lacayo said.

Cesar Comments on Meeting With Baker

PA1801161992 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1256 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] We told U.S. Secretary of State James Baker of our concerns over the unstable private property situation in Nicaragua and the acts of violence that have taken place, National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar said after meeting with Baker.

Cesar said he also talked to Baker about the temporary work permits that have been denied to Nicaraguans living in the United States who have asked for an extension of their deadlines.

I am pleased with the meeting held with Baker; we held a cordial and pleasant conversation, Cesar said.

[Begin Cesar recording] In my opinion, we had to talk to the U.S. Secretary of State, who visited us on 17 January. I emphasized the efforts we are making in the National Assembly for the construction of democratic institutions in the country. We have tried and we will continue to try to resolve national problems, sometimes out of common agreement and sometimes in disagreement, as is natural in all democratic parliaments. I told him about my concerns because confidence has not yet been restored concerning Nicaraguan private property. I said I was concerned because this could delay the country's economic recovery, as I have been saying in Nicaragua for the past few months. Of course, we also talked about the need to make progress in the country's democratic consolidation and the need to resolve the country's public order problems, which are very serious and as serious as those that occurred in November. We told him we are pleased the United States is not only helping us with economic aid, but is also practicing the new relations we have wanted for Nicaragua—those of mutual respect and sincere friendship between the two countries, without intervention in the country's internal affairs. We told him we are happy to speak frankly of our problems and of how the United States can help to resolve these problems in Nicaragua.

I also took advantage of the opportunity to ask Baker about the situation concerning the temporary work permits of Nicaraguans living in the United States, because when they learned I was going to meet with Baker, they asked me to discuss this topic with him, which I did. As Baker explained to me, the topic of temporary work permits for Nicaraguans living in the United States is undoubtedly a difficult one, because Nicaragua is now being ruled by a democratic government and human rights are respected. Those permits are basically granted for reasons of political persecution in the country of origin or for human rights violations. He said he would try to discuss the possibility of making an exception.

What the Nicaraguans living abroad have been saying is that the country is not yet capable of receiving them, because unemployment is too high; the basic services are not ready to receive an avalanche of 100,000 or 200,000 Nicaraguans. Instead of having an illegal status in the United States, some of them need a temporary permit so they can wait until Nicaragua has the employment conditions and basic services to permit them to come. I talked to Baker about this topic.

I am pleased with Baker's visit, both because of the personal meeting we held and because of the opportunity he had to speak with the other National Assembly members in a pluralist atmosphere. Regardless of our different opinions on how to resolve problems, this is the political forum in which our national problems can be resolved. [end recording]

Baker Said 'Impressed' With Chamorro Changes

PA1801143692 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1246 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said in a news conference on 17 January that the United States is impressed with the changes that have been made by President Violeta Chamorro in less than two years.

Baker said he told President Chamorro the United States would continue to provide economic assistance in order to support the country's social recovery and reconciliation process as well as the demining of the entire national territory.

Answering questions from journalists, Baker said the United States has not put conditions on its aid to Nicaragua. He said, however, that all aid lies within the framework of democracy, freedom, and respect for human rights.

Baker also said political stability in Nicaragua will depend on its security. He said the United States has made no official request to reform the current national police. Mr. Baker said foreign investments must be made in Nicaragua, but with security.

D. Ortega Reportedly Meets With Baker in Mexico

PA1701201992 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Jan 92 pp 1, 10

[Report by Marcio Vargas]

[Text] Mexico City, Mexico—Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has asked U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to negotiate with Cuba, lift the blockade, and normalize relations with that country, as part of the continental detente process, which has produced one of its best results with the Salvadoran peace agreement signed on 16 January.

Daniel and Baker talked for almost 25 minutes at a lunch held at the Mexican Los Pinos presidential residence. A large group of Latin American foreign ministers, including Cuban Isidoro Malmierca, attended this event.

A diplomat, who witnessed the conversation between Daniel and Baker, reported that they had discussed the Nicaraguan situation and agreed on the need to strengthen the country's stabilization process and to maintain open communications between the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] and the United States. However, the diplomat added that Ortega and Baker had talked mostly about Cuba.

Daniel had stated that he was concerned because no advances were being made in U.S.-Cuban relations, although there have been improvements with other countries. "You should not place conditions...suspend the Cuban embargo and allow the Cubans to make their own decisions," Ortega asserted.

The U.S. secretary of state replied that Washington had talked to Foreign Minister Malmierca a year go to express the official position of the United Statrs, which is that Cuba has to hold free elections.

Baker said the United States would be willing to respect the results of the elections in Cuba even if Fidel Castro won them and also stated that the United States would lift the embargo once such elections were held.

Ortega insisted that the United States had to lift the embargo to avoid additional suffering for the Cuban people. He reminded Baker that the U.S. elections, wherein a minority elects its leaders, also lacks proper representation. "There is a crisis of legitimacy," warned Daniel, and he invited the diplomat to ponder this problem.

The FSLN secretary general said the talk had been "very constructive," and added: "I felt Baker was very receptive." Ortega and Baker agreed to maintain open communications and to continue their talks after Baker's five-hour visit to Nicaragua on 17 January.

Former President Ortega also met with Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez and requested that Spain and the EEC participate more in the actions to cooperate with Nicaragua and El Salvador.

"Spain is willing to promote European support for Central America and President Gonzalez has told me he will propose an initiative at the next European conference in Lisbon, where the San Jose VIII meeting is also going to be held," Daniel commented.

During the peace signing ceremony, Daniel was assigned a position on the first line of the special guests section and beside former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias,

A few minutes before the formal event started, the Sandinist leader warmly greeted the members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command and raised his arm to symbolically hail the victory of the Salvadoran people "which is also a Nicaraguan victory."

Nicaraguan Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo also met with U.S. Secretary of State Baker and said that it was necessary for U.S. aid to cover the six years of President Chamorro's administration. Lacayo and Baker held their conversation while they traveled in a government bus to one of the events in Mexico City. The Nicaraguan official proposed to Baker that the aid be slated for a six-year period and not annually as it is done currently. Lacayo and Baker agreed to continue discussing the matter of U.S. cooperation during the latter's visit to Nicaragua on 17 January.

Godoy Charges Government With Blocking Talks

PA1801043292 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1030 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Telephone interview with Vice President Dr. Virgilio Godoy by unidentified reporter on the "El Despertar" newscast; place not given—live]

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to "El Despertar" newscast. Dr. Virgilio Godoy, good morning. We are contacting you now because we have information that we would appreciate if you would personally confirm. We are referring to reports that you directly blamed the government for blocking the national dialogue. Are these reports accurate?

[Godoy] Indeed, they are accurate. I believe that for some time now the government has been blocking any attempt to stage a national dialogue. In addition, this has

also been an obstacle to Nicaragua solving its problems, especially those unsolved political issues that are blocking any attempt to implement an economic program to lead the country out of the current crisis.

[Reporter] Dr. Godoy, there have also been some allegations regarding a face-saving attempt by the government in its intended talks with the recompas and the recontras, and that this dialogue has another purpose. Is this true?

[Godoy] Of course. I am convinced that all that has taken place during the last few days is merely a pretense to impress foreign visitors. There is no justification for what the government is doing. Specifically, we have seen that during the last few days the government has suddenly taken a lot of interest in presenting a different image that is opposed to what is really taking place. For example, the government is conducting itself as if it is interested in solving the problems plaguing Nicaragua, especially those related to violent activities in the northern region. In this respect, the government is starting to incorporate recontra units into the police force, and sending wounded servicemen to Costa Rica. To top it all off, the government even had the gall to decorate U.S. military personnel with the clear objective of impressing foreign visitors.

[Reporter] Dr. Godoy, going back to the dialogue issue. You have stated that the government is preventing the national dialogue. However, Mr. Antonio Lacayo stated a couple of days ago that it is you who do not want the dialogue to take place, and that it would only take place when you decide.

[Godoy] That is completely false. Please keep in mind that the dialogue was deadlocked at the end of November because the government delegation decided to include other issues on the agenda, after the issues to be discussed during the dialogue had already been selected. The head of the government delegation, after consulting with Mr. Lacayo, decided to throw overboard whatever progress had been made in setting the agenda. The issues selected would have been the starting point of the dialogue. Significant progress had already been made when this took place. With respect to the agenda itself, the government had agreed to discuss 13 separate issues. Yet, after a final consultation, the 13 issues were discarded and they merely said it would be preferable to proceed with the dialogue without any preconditions. That was a very irresponsible attitude, a way of not wanting to solve Nicaragua's problems.

[Reporter] Dr. Godoy, there have also been reports that not all UNO [National Opposition Union] parties are planning to participate in the dialogue. There have also been reports that the Socialist Party and the Central American Integrationist Party have not been invited to the meetings you have been organizing.

[Godoy] That is merely a way of pulling the rug out from under any attempt to undertake the dialogue. The government, and I would specifically say Mr. Lacayo, has been using arguments such as these to convince other political parties, in addition to UNO, not to participate in the dialogue. They have just about resorted to bribery to convince some parties not to participate in the dialogue.

[Reporter] How you think this national dialogue should take place?

[Godoy] We have already stated, and we believe, that the dialogue should be bipartite. The government must, once and for all, take a position with respect to what side it supports. If it supports the Sandinist faction, then let it participate with the Sandinist delegation. If not, then it should participate with the UNO, but it cannot continue to sit on the fence.

Government, Church, Mayors Discuss Peace

PA1901135592 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Report by Maria Lourdes Osorio]

[Text] A few minutes ago a tripartite meeting took place at the seminary among the government, the Episcopal Conference, and mayors from Regions 1, 5, and 6. The meeting, which was presided over by Presidency Minister Engineer Antonio Lacayo and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, dealt with government actions to guarantee peace and Nicaragua's stability.

The meeting served to analyze government actions to guarantee peace and coffee production in the regions affected by conflict. When the meeting ended, the Santo Tomas mayor described the meeting as fruitful.

[Begin recording of Santo Tomas Mayor Hilario Vargas] We are convinced that among the government, the Episcopal Conference, and the mayors, we can play a decisive role toward peace for Nicaragua. I believe that if these three groups, which are very strong in Nicaragua, cannot achieve peace, then we will each have to find our own Noah's Ark, because the flood will come. [end recording]

Engineer Lacayo pointed out the importance of the government, church, and mayors working together.

[Begin Lacayo recording] Yes, this is why we believe it is really important to hold this meeting and coordinate efforts with the mayors from these regions and with the Episcopal Conference. We feel that the meeting has been effective. We have exchanged information on how they are affected by the problems, how the bishops see the problems, and what the government is doing, such as the meeting on 15 January between Government Minister Hurtado with part of the recontra's general staff at the Tomatoya Base. We have spoken of the firm and clear decision of the authorities—Army, government, and police—to enforce the law in those areas where there is no reason whatsoever to have people committing assaults and hindering producers from going about their work. We feel that all this exchange of information has

been positive and we may possibly have a similar meeting, perhaps late in January or early in February, to assess what we have done.

Today we negotiated with the recontra authorities for them to gather at the Tomatoya Base and complete the negotiations for their full return to civilian life. We are also negotiating for recompas to enter El Dorado Base, near Lake Apanas, to also complete the negotiating process with them. Parallel to this government effort, the Army is going to patrol the main production roads and they will act firmly because there is simply no reason why anyone should be on those roads preventing other Nicaraguans from traveling on them. We have adopted a similar stand on how we deal with the takeover of factories and offices—people have a right to protest, but no one has the right to prevent someone else from working. [end recording]

Government Reaches Agreement With Rearmed Groups

PA1701184292 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Communique issued by the Government Ministry Public and International Relations Department in Managua dated 15 January]

[Text] The Government Ministry hereby reports to the people that Government Minister Carlos Hurtado Cabreras met on 15 January at the Tomatoya Base in Jinotoga Department with the following representatives of the rearmed group: Bigote de Oro [Alcides Rodriguez], Bolivar [Jaime Zeledon], Relampago, and Ruben II and reached the following agreement:

The process of disarmament and demobilization of the first contingent of these rearmed groups will begin on 21 January. This process will continue on 25 January, and will conclude on 2 February 1992. On 27 January, 70 members of the rearmed group will join the mixed police in El Jicaro, Quilali, San Juan del Rio Coco, Telpaneca, La Trinidad, Yali, San Rafael del Norte, La Concordia, Pantasma, El Cua, San Juan de Bocay, (Divili), Rio Blanco, Waslala, (Imay), Condega, Pueblo Nuevo, and Palacaguina Municipalities.

Simultaneously, the special disarmament brigades will begin to disarm the civilian population in areas that will be announced later. Minister Hurtado will appoint a ministry delegate for Esteli Department from a list of candidates presented by these groups. The property delivered to the demobilized of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] will be legalized, as established in the agreements signed between the RN and the government.

The property that has been seized will be returned or compensation will be paid, according to the law. A commission will be appointed to supervise the implementation of these agreements, which in turn, will be verified by the Verification Commission of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and Garcia Poveda.

These agreements reached on 15 January show once again that the policy of dialogue and reconciliation is the means for attaining full stability and for these armed groups to rejoin the productive and social life of the country.

[Issued] Managua, 15 January 1992
[Signed] Government Ministry Public and International Relations Department

Russian Embassy Exlains Nicaraguan Debt Figures

PA1601173792 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Jan 92 pp 1, 12

[Letter to LA PRENSA Director Horacio Ruiz from Andrey Suvorov, press attache of the Russian Embassy in Managua dated 11 January]

[Text] Managua, 11 January 1992
Mr. Horacio Ruiz
LA PRENSA Director

Dear Mr. Director:

After having read the article, "100 Percent Forgiveness of the Foreign Debt," written by Alvaro Martinez Cuenca and published in your newspaper on 8 January 1992, I feel duty bound to share with you information I have available regarding Nicaragua's debt to the former Soviet Union.

According to Nicaraguan Central Bank figures (1 July 1991), your country's total debt with the [former] USSR amounts to approximately $2.6713 billion, including $458.9 million in overdue payments. This includes debt from credits used to purchase civilian merchandise, excluding military supplies. Most of the debt is from the supply of petroleum, raw materials, construction material, tractors, trucks, cars, airplanes, vessels, varied industrial equipment, food, etc. What our people have sent to the Nicaraguan people forms an important part of Nicaragua's national wealth.

Credits granted to the Nicaraguan Government include loans in convertible U.S. dollars and German marks we obtained especially for this purpose through international banks. Despite its complicated economic situation, Russia continues debt servicing on the Nicaraguan debt (in 1990 $40 million and slightly more in 1991). We do this to fulfill obligations incurred to alleviate Nicaragua's difficult situation in the mid-1980's.

Despite the hard times Russia and Nicaragua are experiencing, we have the political will and intention to continue commercial and economic cooperation with Nicaragua on an equal and mutually beneficial basis, in line with the interests of our peoples.

[Signed] Andrey Suvorov
Press Attache of the Russian Embassy

Panama

Foreign Ministry Protests Unauthorized Overflights

PA1701225492 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2121 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Panama City, 17 Jan (DPA)—The Panamanian Foreign Ministry has presented a formal protest to the U.S. Embassy concerning the continuous "unauthorized" flights in Panamanian airspace of U.S. military aircraft.

The Foreign Ministry issued an official communique stating that the U.S. overflights take place without due authorization and, occasionally openly ignore internationally acknowledged aviation norms.

The note charges that over the past few weeks, U.S. military planes have carried out unauthorized flights over Panama City and towns in the interior of the country and have interfered with commercial aviation routes.

In its protest note, Panama asks the United States to adopt the necessary measures to comply with Panamanian requirements for flights in Panamanian airspace and to show respect for measures that guarantee air security.

More on Protest

PA1801204892 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Jan 92 p 12 A

[By Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] The Panamanian Government has filed a formal protest to the U.S. Government for the series of overflights U.S. Southern Command planes and helicopters have been conducting over Panamanian airspace without permission. President Guillermo Endara has said, "We must not continue to tolerate this."

A Panamanian Foreign Ministry press communique released on 17 January stated that the protest note was sent to the U.S. Embassy in Panama City.

In the last few weeks U.S. military planes have been conducting unauthorized flights over Panama City as well as the interior of the country. They have even used the routes assigned to commercial planes, the protest note states.

The Foreign Ministry asked the U.S. Embassy to take the appropriate measures in order to meet the requirement to request the necessary authorization before conducting flights over Panamanian airspace, according to the laws that are currently in effect.

Meanwhile, Endara said that we have "to protest because these overflights must not continue. We must not continue to tolerate them."

Even though the U.S. Embassy has sent its excuses, the U.S. Southern Command must take special care in order to prevent this from recurring, Endara said. He added that it is time "for our sovereignty to be respected and for Panama to command respect."

Last December, a helicopter gunship overflew the Panama City airspace and even over the Presidency and the Foreign Ministry, which led to a protest from Panamanian authorities.

In the last few months Southern Command soldiers and Panamanian policemen have staged a series of incidents, the most serious of which was the killing of U.S. soldier Hailemikael Childs by Panamanian Police Corporal Juan Arauz.

PRD Members Stage Anti-U.S. Demonstration

PA2001010092 Paris AFP in Spanish 2238 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Santiago, Veraguas, Panama, 19 Jan (AFP)—Some 200 national leaders of the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) of Panama, led by PRD President Gerardo Gonzalez, staged a demonstration on 19 January in front of the national police headquarters in Santiago, Veraguas Province, 250 km west of Panama City.

The demonstrators rejected the presence of U.S. military personnel in the Panamanian province and demanded respect for the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, under which the Panama Canal will revert to Panama in 2000.

The 300-member PRD national directorate approved a resolution in Santiago on 19 January denouncing U.S. military presence "throughout the national territory, in flagrant violation of the nation's independence, autonomy, and sovereignty."

The PRD has 12 of the 67 seats in the national legislature. The PRD served as the political arm of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's military regime, ousted by the U.S.invasion in 1989.

The U.S. Army, which has some 9,000 troops permanently stationed in Panama, on 8 January began a "civic operation" called "Strong Road 1992." The maneuver, which will be carried out over six months in five provinces in the Panamanian countryside, will involve some 4,000 U.S. National Guard troops from Florida and Missouri.

PRD legislator Edelberto Culiolis reported that the U.S. troops control the local Roberto Cantu Airport and the police headquarters; and have established a camp with tents, transport vehicles, communications center, and half a dozen antiaircraft batteries.

"We reject the illegal presence of U.S. troops and the military occupation of Panamanian territory," the PRD resolution states, after accusing President Guillermo

Endara's government, installed in office in the wake of the invasion, of accepting this state of affairs.

Gerardo Gonzalez maintained that the military intervention and the subsequent occupation "are directed toward disregarding the Torrijos-Carter Treaties."

The PRD also issued a resolution demanding a reopening of the investigation into the death of Gen. Omar Torrijos Herrera in an air crash on 31 June 1981. The PRD attributes Torrijos' death to the CIA.

Born in Veraguas and the main founder of the PRD, Torrijos directed a nationalist struggle that culminated in the signature of the canal treaties in 1977.

On 17 January, the Panamanian Foreign Ministry formally protested to the U.S. Government over "unauthorized" flights by U.S. Army airplanes over the national territory .

Police Director Says Incidents Exaggerated

PA1601193092 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] Police Director Osvaldo Fernandez said on 15 January the incidents between U.S. soldiers and members of the Public Force are being exaggerated.

[Begin recording] [Fernandez] The names of the people involved in the incidents have been turned over to the Technical Judicial Police [PTJ]. The PTJ, can use regular channels to request their presence for interrogation.

[Reporter] U.S. authorities have said they will conduct investigations. Why is that?

[Fernandez] They have to conduct their internal investigation and so do we, in the National Police, regarding our agents. Panamanian judicial authorities, however, will conduct the pertinent investigations to determine if a punishable action was committed.

[Reporter] Will Panamanian authorities investigate the U.S. soldiers?

[Fernandez] If the crime was committed in Panama, Panamanian authorities will investigate, regardless of internal administrative investigations by either the U.S. Army or our National Police. An internal administrative investigation is necessary.

[Reporter] There has been no explanation about the last two incidents or confrontations between U.S. and Panamanian troops. Nothing has been said so far.

[Fernandez] In the first place, I would not call them confrontations. In the case of Mr. Rodriguez Pena, he has already testified and stated the wound he received came from a car apparently driven by foreigners. I think the case was solved with his testimony. The second incident, which occurred two days ago, is still under investigation. [end recording]

U.S. Southern Command Warned of Link in Bombings

PA1701162292 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 Jan 92 p 16

[By Aneldo Arosemena]

[Text] The Southern Command Intelligence reportedly warned the Panamanian Government security organization about the alleged link between the Cuban Embassy and former members of the defunct Panama Defense Forces [FDP] who are believed to be the instigators of the RPG missile attack on the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy and the 16 January explosion at a home in Hato Pintado.

The information was disclosed to EL SIGLO by an official source close to the Presidency's Council for Public Security and National Defense [Conasepuden], which is under Jose Menalco Solis, a former minister and current presidential adviser. The organization that coordinates public security tasks for Guillermo Endara's government met with officers of the U.S. Southern Command on 14 January in a discreet place close to the Palace of the Herons. It was officially reported that the reason for the meeting was to discuss the recent incidents between U.S. soldiers and Panamanian citizens.

Meanwhile, this reporter consulted with Attorney General Rogelio Cruz about the alleged participation of a foreign government in destabilization actions against the Endara government. Cruz replied: "Everyone is a suspect." Cruz added that several hypotheses are being worked on, and "we do not exclude the possibility that some insiders are involved," referring to the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ].

Concerning the attacks and the wave of telephoned bomb threats to public institutions and El Panama America Publishing House, EL SIGLO was informed that a "hot line" has been established between the Conasepuden led by Menalco Solis, and the state security organizations such as the Institutional Protection Service, the PTJ, and the National Police in order to coordinate tasks. These organizations have indications that the attacks are part of a terrorist escalation that will intensify as of the week of 19 January.

The attorney general of the nation told EL SIGLO that the bomb placed on 16 January and the telephoned bomb threat to government offices were done in order to create an atmosphere of unrest that would have forced President Endara to suspend his trip to Mexico to attend the signing of the peace agreements between the Salvadoran government and the guerrillas.

Official sources close to the office directed by Menalco Solis said there are three groups involved in the destabilization actions, including a group of former members of the defunct FDP and some individuals belonging to the "Dignity Battalions." Another group is led by former Captain Jose Eliecer Bernal and the leaders of the 4 and 5 December 1990 coup attempt. Bernal is currently

living in asylum in Guatemala. There are also indications that high-ranking former military officers who are imprisoned at Renacer Prison were involved in the terrorist actions.

The attorney general said he agrees with the reports that former officers imprisoned at Renacer are involved, and are even participating in the destablization actions. "We are working on all hypotheses, including the absurd one that the instigator is [Vice President] Billy Ford himself."

The PTJ is also investigating reports that Gonzalo Gonzalez, also known as Chalo, entered Panama from Costa Rica on 13 November 1991. The information was obtained in early December. Chalo Gonzalez and Heraclides Sucre both disappeared several months ago in Peru, where they were granted asyulum. It is believed that Gonzalez went to Cuba before allegedly returning to Panama.

Reportage on Bombings, Threats in Panama City

Bomb Deactivated

PA1701131792 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1228 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Statement by Public Force Spokesman Daniel Alonso—live]

[Excerpt] In the name of the National Police, I want to confirm that at approximately at 0440 on 17 January, the policemen who patrol the El Dorado area [Panama City neighborhood near Ft. Clayton] found an explosive device in the 7-11 [previous two words in English] store in El Dorado. The device was in a paper bag. The policemen immediately reported their finding to the Police Investigation and Information Office; a bomb squad arrived at the site shortly thereafter. The police squad was able to deactivate the explosive device, which I can describe as follows: It weighs approximately one-half pound and contains what is known as C-4 explosives. The device was formed by a detonator, a circuit, and a clock. That means that the clock would make the device explode. Fortunately, due to the efficient police action, the explosive device was found and deactivated. [passage omitted]

Further on Bomb Deactivation

PA1701200692 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Bombings continue to take place in Panama City. On 17 January a military C-4 time bomb was defused at El Dorado's 7-Eleven Store. Meanwhile, the authorities are redoubling efforts to provide security and avoid chaos. The bomb was defused after the police bomb squad was called in by the store's private security personnel. The device was a time bomb set to go off at 1000 but did not because the clock malfunctioned. The bomb was placed in a communications panel of the National Institute of Telecommunications; the panel was located in the store's basement. Store owner Adalberto Ferrer is a relative of Delfin del Busto, whose house was blown up on 16 January. The "Telemetro Reports" news team visited the site of the incident early on 17 January.

[Begin recording] [Ferrer] The employees working the early morning shift reported that a bomb was placed in the store's basement. They then called the special bomb squad. The bomb was defused at about 0600, and everything was cleared. The area was cordoned off at 0300, and nobody could enter or leave.

[Reporter] Do you have any idea why you were the target of this attack?

[Ferrer] No. I honestly do not see any connection between recent attacks and this one. As a matter fact, I think the bombings are part of campaign to terrorize the people and foster insecurity within the government.

[Reporter] As a small-scale businessman, what do you think is the impact of these acts of terrorism?

[Ferrer] They clearly threaten the safety of merchants. Customers will be greatly affected. A chain like this one that works 24 hours a day will not get customers at night. In general terms, store schedules and profits will suffer. [end recording]

In addition, security authorities are on alert and conducting a nationwide joint operation to stop these actions.

[Begin recording] [Judicial Technical Police, PTJ, Director Jaime Abad] This operation has been under way since early December and works around the clock Monday through Sunday. We are assigning more personnel to this operation in view of the rising number of attacks. It involves all the public security agencies, chiefly the National Police and the PTJ.

[Reporter] Have these attacks been attributed to any specific political group?

[Abad] We are investigating the attacks that we think were carried out by groups or individuals acting alone. We cannot confirm or deny that this is the work of one specific group. We are still investigating this case.

[Reporter] It is said that 40 former soldiers who participated in the foiled coup attempt of 5 December 1990 are involved. What progress has been made?

[Abad] We are investigating civilians, former soldiers, and officials currently working in the police, the PTJ, and other institutions. We are not ruling out the involvement of former soldiers who participated in the 5 December coup. We are investigating them all the same.

[Reporter] Terrorist attacks are on the rise, and they are no longer taking place early in the morning but earlier in the night. What do the security entities plan to do to counter this situation?

[Abad] I will not try to deny this situation exists. As I said before, we are increasing the number of personnel and special police measures. We are increasing the number of police roadblocks at night and early in the morning, even during the day. We are asking the people for their understanding. [end recording]

Bomb Damages Homes

PA1601195792 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] The houses of architect Delfin Del Busto and Carlos Arango, located in the Hato Pintado neighborhood, show the results of an explosive set off early on the morning of 16 January. The neighbors came out of their houses when they heard the explosion and saw that a vehicle in one of the garages was on fire. The windows of the houses were also been destroyed by the explosion. The Police Investigations Directorate, the Pueblo Nuevo and Betania Police Stations, and the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] have begun the appropriate investigations. Evidence was destroyed when the neighbors threw water on the vehicle, making it impossible for the police to learn what kind of explosive was used. Delfin Del Busto, owner of one of the houses, gives us more details:

[Begin recording] [Del Busto] The explosion occurred at 0130, while everyone was sleeping. It damaged my cars and those of my neighbor. The fronts of both our houses were also damaged.

[Reporter] Do you know the reason for the action against you?

[Del Busto] I have no idea why this happened. It is unfortunate that while some Panamanians are concerned about working for our country's economy, other people just want to see how they can destroy what others do. It is unfortunate that these things are occurring in our country. It affects everyone, because investments drop when such things happen. [end recording]

Government and Justice Minister Juan Chevalier also referred to the incident early on the morning of 16 January.

[Begin recording] [Chevalier] The explosion damaged a vehicle and the windows of the house. That is the only information I have right now.

[Reporter] As government and justice minister, how do you describe these latest terrorist actions in the country?

[Chevalier] Terrorist actions are cowardly actions anywhere in the world, and Panama is no exception. Using the cover of darkness to damage private or government property is not a courageous act.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] a coup d'etat against President Endara?

[Chevalier] No way. Do you think that they are going to overthrow a government by just setting off a bomb or a little firecracker? For crying out loud [laughs]. That is not going to happen. [end recording]

The PTJ is investigating the recent terrorist actions. It has also admitted the existence of a third terrorist force based on a political party.

[Begin recording] [PTJ Director Jaime Abad] Another incident involving an explosive device occurred at a house in the Hato Pintado neighborhood at approximately 0130 on 16 January. The explosive device was placed underneath a Cherokee vehicle, seriously damaging that vehicle and a BMW. The owners of the houses and the vehicles that were affected by the explosion said they have no links with the current government. They also said they are not active members of any political party. Therefore, they do not believe the terrorist action is politically motivated. They stated they do not know the reason for the action. Thirty minutes before the explosion, a Mitsubishi Montero vehicle was stolen from another citizen, who has no links with the owners of the two houses. The individuals who stole the vehicle claimed to be PTJ members. They were seen carrying two bags. The stolen vehicle was abandoned near the site of the explosion. Therefore, it is likely that it was used to perpetrate the terrorist action. That is the current state of the investigations, which we are continuing on 16 January.

[Reporter] Some media have highlighted U.S. Southern Command reports about destabilization movements. There is talk that members of the National Police, former members of the Defense Forces, and a third force are involved in the movements. What do you know about that?

[Abad] I regret to tell you that I am not authorized to comment to the media about the Southern Command reports.

[Reporter] But at the Panamanian level, what do you have?

[Abad] At the level of our investigations, the PTJ has drawn up a chronological profile of all the attacks after the invasion. We presented it to the Security Council on 15 January. We are working on the basis of that report.

[Reporter] What does it state?

[Abad] It is confidential.

[Reporter] There have been many bomb threats. How do you view them?

[Abad] Look, the threats definitely have a destabilization objective.

[Reporter] But it is known that the security officials have found that there is a third force. It is not the M-20 [20 December Movement]. It is based on a political party, and is called something like National Liberation.

[Abad] We are investigating the M-20, the 20-M, whatever, any organization that at any moment leaves an anonymous note. I cannot confirm or deny the existence of a third force. We are simply investigating it. [end recording]

More on Bomb Threats

PA1601233397 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2139 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Over the past 48 hours there have been approximately 50 false alarms concerning the placement of bombs at state institutions in Panama City. However, the terrorist threats have not ended because in Chitre, Herrera Province, the municipal palace and the governor's offices were also the victims of false alarms. Our correspondent Leo Alvarado reports from Herrera Province:

[Begin recording] [Alvarado] For KW Continente, reporting the facts first, there was panic a short while ago in the city of Chitre, where the municipal palace and governor's offices were subjected to a false alarm concerning the alleged placement of a bomb in the building that houses them.

Herrera Governor Eulalia de Peralta made the following statements for KW Continente:

[Peralta] A while ago we were about to begin a (?working) meeting when the secretary received a call from M-20 [20 December Movement] stating that within 10 minutes a bomb would go off. I immediately initiated precautionary measures, I did my duty by calling the police, fire fighters, and the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] so that they could make the necessary search, and I responsibly evacuated both City Hall and the governor's offices as a precautionary measure. Right now the three institutions are conducting the necessary search and, undoubtedly, as of this moment (?I am going to meet with these people) to implement precautionary measures in case of future incidents. We cannot allow such false alarms to hinder the work we must do for the people. I will adopt precautionary measures because it may or may not be a false alarm, but it is my duty to offer security to our employees and people. That is why security measures will be implemented as of this moment, once the search is over.

[Alvarado] During and after the inspection, which lasted over 45 minutes, the PTJ's chief inspector in Chitre, Carlota de Fuentes, declined to make comments to the press in keeping with certain regulations that preclude disclosures in cases such as these.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] City Hall?

[Fuentes] I cannot comment.

[Reporter] Why not?

[Fuentes] It is up to the governor, in any case, to make any disclosures concerning the incident.

[Alvarado] At present, all is calm at the municipal palace in Chitre. All of the employees have returned to work and the governor is meeting with the PTJ, fire fighters, and the National Police with whom she is organizing a surveillance operation to protect the municipal palace. [end recording]

Meanwhile, KW Continente correspondent Eduardo Diaz Barrios reports a false bomb threat this afternoon at the Housing Ministry in El Maranon neighborhood:

[Begin recording] [Diaz Barrios] Telephone terrorists once again created an alarming situation at the Housing Ministry's central offices in El Maranon, when an anonymous caller said that there was an explosive device in the building. The fire fighters evacuated ministry personnel on direct orders from the housing minister and the ministry's personnel director.

Specialized Public Force and security personnel are also searching for the alleged explosive device. It has been announced that the Housing Ministry is being searched floor by floor from the highest point of the building. After the search concludes a report will be issued. This is another of many calls made to government institutions by individuals who have been categorized as telephone terrorists. Later, as further information becomes available, we will report to our thousands of listeners. [end recording]

Bomb Threats Reported

PA1701192492 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1751 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] More than eight bomb threats were received by different institutions on 17 January. Meanwhile, those responsible for making these calls have not been identified.

The bomb threats have continued to alarm citizens in different parts of the city. By noon on 17 January, the Fire Department had received four calls reporting bomb threats in different institutions. Since that time, four more calls have been received.

The Electoral Tribunal, Santo Tomas Hospital, the Cedula-issuing Office, and the Foreign Ministry all received calls reporting that explosive devices had been placed in those installations. So far, the existence of explosive devices has not been confirmed, but units from the Fire Department and the National Police continue to carry out searches, hoping not to find anything.

In all the aforementioned institutions, both the personnel and customers were ordered out of the buildings; it is expected that activities in these institutions will resume at 1400.

Authorities have not yet identified those responsible for these irregularities, which have taken place in the last five days. Meanwhile, no government official has made an official announcement on the matter.

Minister on Threats

PA1701214692 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1907 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Panama City, 17 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Government and Justice Minister Juan Chevalier on 17 January said that the recent explosions and bomb threats by unidentified individuals are intended to sabotage the government economic program, which is rejected by the opposition and business and labor groups.

A bomb partially destroyed the car and the windows of the residence of an architect at dawn on 16 January and the police defused a bomb planted at a fast food restaurant, both in the capital.

These incidents, along with at least six anonymous calls on 17 January warning of the presence of explosives in various points of the capital, follow the explosion of a device last week at the offices of Planning Minister Guillermo Ford that caused structural damage to the building.

Ford, who is also second vice president, is the architect of the economic plan that the government is promoting. The issue that has been the focus of attention this week is the reduction of the large state payroll by 20,000 employees.

All opposition groups, as well as industrialists and labor unions, have opposed this plan.

The so-called 20 December Movement (M-20), which took its name from the date of the 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama, which ousted and captured General Manuel Antonio Noriega, claimed responsibility for the attack on Ford's offices through telephone calls to the media.

Chevalier, who oversees the Public Force, pointed out that security measures are being adopted in all public areas of the capital with patrols and special surveillance to prevent further incidents of this sort.

When consulted about an alleged destabilization plan against the government of President Endara, the minister said that these actions "are intended to create uncertainty to stop the country's economic development, and thus, create distrust."

Meanwhile Humberto Macea, a former officer of the defunct Panama Defense Forces, told ACAN-EFE that the Panamanian Public Force "is completely capable of facing a terrorist group."

Macea, who has been involved with the Endara administration, pointed out that "the events in Panama are regrettable," referring to the constant bomb threats.

Endara on Threats

PA1801170792 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Diplomatic relations between Panama and Mexico are on the verge of becoming normal, President Endara stated on the afternoon of 17 January on his return from the signing of the El Salvador peace agreement in Mexico.

During a news conference held minutes after President Endara arrived at Tocumen International Airport from Mexico City, where the Salvadoran peace agreement was signed with the participation of most Central American presidents, the president was approached by national newsmen regarding the recent terrorist attacks that have occurred in the country.

[Begin Endara recording] I think we all agree that those who are staging these acts of psychological and terrorist war are the enemies of democracy. They want this country to return to the era of the dictatorship, of militarism, of Noriegism—perhaps without Noriega, or even with Noriega himself. I think I do not have to tell you that the Panamanians are not going to tolerate that. We are all going to unite against those who are attacking our democracy, which is strong and resolved to move forward. It demonstrates through results that, although it is not resolving everything, it is resolving problems. The recent figures on Panama's economic growth, which were never expected to be so high, are evidence of this. [end recording]

The president was also broached regarding the implementation of the voluntary retirement plan.

[Begin Endara recording] We have to reduce the personnel and expenditures budget if we want to make investments in this country. [end recording]

Endara on Terrorist Attacks

PA2001212492 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] President Guillermo Endara made statements on 20 January with regard to the investigations into the bomb threats in this capital. The president has held a series of meetings with members of the Public Security and National Defense Council.

[Begin recording] [Endara] We have held a series of meetings. Of course the meetings are confidential in nature, but we are already taking measures and you will see what they are as soon as they are specifically implemented. We have a great deal of information. Unfortunately, this is not the type of information we can give you. No matter how much we trust you, we cannot yet give you the information, but we are going to be reporting to you at the proper time.

[Reporter] Are you going to suspend the constitutional guarantees?

[Endara] For the time being we are not thinking about the possibility of suspending constitutional guarantees. I do not think we will have to. I personally do not like even thinking about this topic. You have seen that throughout my term in government, we have never suspended constitutional guarantees and I hope that during my entire

tenure, until September 1994, the government will never suspend constitutional guarantees so that all Panamanians can enjoy all their rights in their fatherland without limitations.

[Reporter] Can the M-20 [20 December Movement] overthrow the government?

[Endara] I believe that the government is on solid ground. I do not think this will adversely affect the government, but unfortunately many people, who have no links to the government, could suffer from any terrorist action. We have seen that they have no regard for innocent people.

[Reporter] Security sources say there is a third force, to which the government is paying more attention, because it can form a guerrilla force in our country.

[Endara] I am not aware of any guerrilla force. As far as we know, we are not talking about a single group. There are several groups operating here. Actually I believe this whole M-20 business is something of a myth, but I would not dare say it is completely a myth because I do not want to be caught by surprise.

[Reporter] There is talk of military personnel being involved?

[Endara] I believe this is basically a movement of people linked to Manuel Antonio Noriega's military regime. Perhaps not, but it all indicates that they want to return to the past, when military repression prevailed, when there was no democracy, and when there were no freedoms. We cannot return to the past under any circumstance. We cannot return to the times of Noriega, with or without Noriega.

[Reporter] Any politicians involved?

[Endara] I cannot say. I do not have any indication that they are involved.

[Reporter] Are military officers within the Public Force or the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] involved?

[Endara] I would not dare answer that question because I do not have the information....

[Reporter, interrupting] Will anyone linked to the government or outside the government be investigated?

[Endara] Everyone can be investigated. Everyone can be investigated. [repeats]

[Reporter] Inside and outside the government?

[Endara] Inside and outside the government. Everyone can be investigated because we cannot refrain from investigating someone just because he works for the government. No, no, we are all equal under the law. [end recording]

No Injuries Reported

PA1801230392 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 18 Jan 92 pp a-1, a-2

[Article by James Aparicio]

[Text] A government spokesperson announced on 17 January that police and security organizations are on a "state of alert" due to bomb attacks and bomb threats against 12 public institutions and private entities.

The police reaction followed a wave of attacks that began on 9 January with the firing of an RPG rocket against the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry, attributed to the alleged 20 December Movement (M-20) subversive group.

On 17 January, the police defused a bomb prepared with half a pound of C-4 explosives placed at the 7-11 convenience store on Tumba Muerto Highway, one day after a similar bomb exploded at a private residence in La Loma neighborhood, Pueblo Nuevo district.

A police spokesperson disclosed that on 17 January telephone bomb threats were received at the Foreign Ministry, the Panamanian Special Rehabilitation Institute, Public Registry, Electoral Tribunal, the Lottery, Ricardo Miro school, Santo Tomas Hospital, the Social Security clinic in San Francisco district, and the Gago Supermarket on the Transisthmian Highway.

Police explosive experts searched the premises of the institutions that received bomb threats after ordering government offices vacated.

A similar threat was received on 14 January at Paitilla Airport and on 15 January at the Attorney General's Office and the Housing Ministry.

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA has been able to verify that the police have about 10 checkpoints in various parts of the city.

The policemen, armed with M-16 rifles and submachine guns, request personal identification and carefully inspect commercial and private vehicles.

A report prepared by the U.S. Army Southern Command and delivered this week to the Public Security and National Defense Council headed by Menalco Solis, warned of terrorist activities in the capital, which have not caused any personal injuries. According to Carlos Landero, deputy director of the Judicial Technical Police, about 43 former military men are under investigation in connection with the explosives.

Cruz on Investigation

PA1801233992 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 18 Jan 92 p 8

[Article by Aneldo Arosemena]

[Text] Former military officers imprisoned in the Renacer Prison located in Gamboa, political figures of the opposition, and active military personnel will be summoned by Attorney General Rogelio Cruz to make depositions regarding the recent bomb attacks against the Planning Ministry, a private home located in Hato Pintado, and the unexploded bomb found on 17 January in the Tumba Muerto [illegible].

The information was provided to this newspaper by a government source closely involved in the investigation currently being conducted by public security institutions. During the next few hours, according to the source, civilians and former military personnel suspected of participating in the attacks, will be arrested. The source also added that active military personnel will also be summoned for questioning.

According to the source, "a parade" of imprisoned military officers and politicians will be shortly marching, not only to and from the office of the Attorney General, but also to other judicial departments. At the same time, several civilians, presumably members of the Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD), will also be subpoenaed for questioning.

This reporter was able to ascertain that on 17 January, a former member of the dismantled Panama Defense Forces [FDP] presented a deposition before the general secretariat of the Attorney General's Office. This office is headed by Elena Valdez de Alvarez. The former PDF serviceman, who is nicknamed "Peludito," was arrested in Penonome for being a part of a gang of muggers operating in Veraguas Province. "Peludito," a former noncommissioned officer, was a member of the elite "Macho de Monte" company. This company was headed by former Major Gonzalo "Chalo" Gonzalez. According to Technical Judicial Police [PTJ] reports, Gonzalez has been in Panama since 13 November, when he entered from Costa Rica. "Peludito" was a close associate of former Captain Tomas Saldana, also known as "Superman." Saldana is currently wanted by the authorities and has been linked with terrorist activities.

Carlos Landero, deputy chief of the PTJ confirmed that an investigation is currently taking place, and that active members of the National Police, as well as the PTJ, are being investigated. He also pointed out that according to the investigation, all the attempts are linked and they are now trying to establish if the explosive devices used are part of a batch previously controlled by the dismantled PDF. Landero stated that "We are not going to fool anyone. The people behind these attacks are experts in the use of explosives."

EL SIGLO was also able to learn that on 17 January, the PTJ Security Division received numerous reports on bomb threats at such places as the Citizens Registration Directorate, Santo Tomas Hospital, National Lottery, First Savings Bank located on Justo Arosemena Avenue, Mathematics and Commercial Academy, Panamanian Special Rehabilitation Institute (IPHE), and Gago Supermarket located on Via Brasil. In addition, bomb threats were also received in other locations, but it was impossible for this daily to confirm the identify of these places.

Finally, the government source also disclosed that a "meeting"—not a press conference—with certain reporters and media representatives has been suggested. These media representatives "all agree in their wish to protect, not the government, but the democratic institutions of Panama." The objective of this "meeting" is to urge the media to cooperate with the investigation.

Cruz on Measures

PA1901165392 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 19 Jan 92 p 1A

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has said that he would not rule out the possibility of foreign participation in the wave of terrorist threats in Panama. He noted that the suspension of some constitutional rights as a result of this situation would have to be decided by the executive branch through the Cabinet Council.

Cruz said that he hopes that circumstances will not force the government to adopt measures that could affect some constitutional guarantees.

He clarified that the suspension of constitutional rights by the government is one of the options permitted by the Constitution to preserve democratic order, but that this should be one of the last measures applied by the government.

According to Cruz, the government must first adopt preventive measures to repress crimes against the state's internal security before suspending constitutional guarantees. One of those measures could be implementing a curfew.

Cruz said that investigators are reviewing all possible theories to uncover the authors of the terrorist attacks and have not ruled out the participation of foreigners or active members of the National Police and the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] in those actions. "Nothing, regardless of how absurd it may seem, can be ruled out," he stressed.

Cruz said that the so-called bomb "crisis" is being handled by the National Police, the PTJ, and the Attorney General's Office, which are in permanent contact with the Council of Public Security and National Defense [Conasepuden], the Presidency's intelligence agency.

Cruz, PTJ Director Jaime Abad, National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez, Institutional Protection Service Director Carlos Bares, [Conasepuden Executive Secretary] Menalco Solis, and Second Vice President Guillermo Ford met again on 18 January to discuss the terrorist attacks.

Vice President Ford called for "severe punishment" of those responsible for the bomb attacks.

Regarding the plastic component C-4 found in one of the bombs placed at the 7-Eleven supermarket on the night of 16 January, it was learned that the material used to fabricate this home-made bomb can be easily obtained.

The C-4 is for military use and is 90 percent hexogen, the same explosive used in 1983 in an attack that killed 241 U.S. Marines in Beirut.

Police Remove Bomb

PA2001170292 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 20 Jan 92 p 1A

[Article by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] On 19 January another explosive device was found, this time in a supermarket in Cerro Batea, San Miguelito, police sources have reported.

The homemade pipe bomb was filled with powder, but it did not have a fuse so it could not have exploded. Members of the Institutional Protection Service (SPI) and the National Police participated in the operation to remove the device.

This is the third explosive device discovered by the authorities in the last four days. The previous ones were found in Las Lomas de Hato Pintado and the 7-Eleven Supermarket in El Dorado, both in Panama City. Since the first attack against the "My Place" bar on 2 March 1990, nearly 30 incidents of this kind have been reported in Panama.

Meanwhile, Vice President Guillermo Ford said it is improbable that the constitutional guarantees will be suspended in view of the wave of terrorist threats. This is a "very delicate matter" and such a decision would only be made in the case of imminent danger to the population, Ford said. He added that the suspension of constitutional guarantees was not discussed at the informative sessions held by President Guillermo Endara with the members of the Public Security Force and National Defense Council on 18 January.

Argentina

Diplomatic Relations Established With Armenia

PY1701142292 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1356 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (TELAM)—Gaston de Prat Gay, Argentine ambassador to the Russian Federation, and Raffi Ovannisian, Armenian foreign minister, sign today in Moscow the protocol to establish diplomatic relations between the two states.

The Foreign Ministry announced this at noon today in a press release that highlights the fact that Argentina and Armenia decided to establish diplomatic relations "guided by their mutual desire to develop links of friendship and cooperation in political, economic, trade, and other fields."

Foreign Minister To Propose Russian Immigration

PY2001200292 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1315 GMT 20 Jan 92

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (NA)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella will propose the immigration of 100,000 Russians from the Baltic countries to Argentina during the international meeting in Washington with U.S. State Secretary James Baker to analyze aid to the former Soviet Union.

In an interview published today by EL CRONISTA COMERCIAL, Di Tella said Argentina "is in a position to absorb" 25,000 Russian families from Estonia and Latvia, "provided that they meet some conditions."

The official offer, which will take place "over two or three years," will be made public by President Carlos Menem during his visit to the EEC in Brussels next month.

Di Tella said: "A financing assignation should be established for each person so the immigrants do not negatively affect labor, housing, and the infrastructure."

He said: "The amounts are not huge but of a certain importance. These funds obviously will not come from the former Soviet Union. We seek to help it, and this is a practical and efficient way to do so."

Di Tella added that the Baltic republics of Estonia and Latvia "have a major interest in resolving the problem of the Russian minorities, who were recently established in these countries;" that is, after World War II. He said that this is not the case in Lithuania, where the Russian community is "practically nonexistent."

He said most Russians from Estonia and Latvia "do not want to return to Russia and do not want to stay where they are, either."

He stated: "This group might like to immigrate to Argentina, and this is the proposal we will make in Washington."

As for the meeting in Washington, Di Tella explained that Argentina also will bring up the matter of agricultural subsidies. He pointed out that if the huge amount of money being spent in subsidies by the EEC and the United States are concentrated in the former Soviet Union, the serious shortage of food affecting that country will be largely solved, and one of the main disruptive elements in international trade will be eliminated."

He said that [GATT General Director Arthur] Dunkel's proposal to lower subsidies "is reasonable, to the extent that it does not satisfy anyone."

Di Tella said: "This is a way to solve the situation, but if rejected directly (as in France's case), they will run the risk of causing the (?rupture) of the GATT system."

Regarding negotiations with the United Kingdom over the Malvinas Islands, Di Tella said: "The formal position remains unchanged," because we "continue to maintain the umbrella formula and we are discussing fishing and mineral cooperation."

He said, however, that "we have clearly stated that with or without an umbrella, the Malvinas' sovereignty is a matter that has not yet been resolved."

As for the upcoming visit of Tristan Garel-Jones, the Foreign Office's second leading official, Di Tella said: "We are willing to show great flexibility." He noted: "We know very well the difference existing between the wishes and the interests of the islanders." He added: "We are ready to discuss everything."

Referring to corruption charges, Di Tella said "the theory of revealing everything is very healthy, but it has a high price."

"We are going through a cultural change." He continued: "We are changing the model, and precise critiques must be carried out."

Di Tella downplayed U.S. Senator Robert Lugar's request for the presence of U.S. congressmen during the destruction of the Condor 2 missile. He said, however, that he did not have "any problem" regarding the presence of international observers.

He said Condor 2 "was not just a bad but a very bad project." He made it clear that Argentina "had offered to act as a Third or Fourth World country so its territory could be used by Germany to carry out missile experiments that could not be carried out in Europe, even less with the financing of Iraqi capital."

Di Tella said: "Carrying out a strategically sensitive experiment with sensitive countries, Argentina became a dangerous and untruthful country, a fact that prevented the transfer of the essential technology [word indistinct]

He noted: "Its physical destruction is necessary if we want to integrate into the developed world."

As for the Cuban regime, Di Tella said: "We want to set up a Third World strategy that can be unequivocal, clear, and impatient, because we must make up for lost time." He added: "The entire world agrees that Cuba is ruled by a dictatorship."

He said: "One year ago people said that Fidel Castro's government was a regime with certain peculiarities," but "everyone knows now that the king is naked, he is not democratic, and there is no freedom of the press, no freedom of anything."

"I believe we have helped the discussion by calling things by their names," Di Tella concluded.

Menem Phones Bush To Inquire About Health

PY1701124092 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1012 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jan (NA)—U.S. President George Bush has told his Argentine colleague, Carlos Menem, that his health "is perfect" and that he is willing to go ahead with "the Americas Initiative."

On the afternoon of 16 January Menem telephoned Bush to ask about his health, having heard that Bush was indisposed during his recent visit to Japan.

Bush began the conversation with, "Hello Carlos, how are you?" in perfect Spanish. He told Menem that he felt "perfect."

The U.S. President said: "After a brief and passing indisposition in Tokyo, I felt perfectly strong enough to continue on the path of world peace and development of our countries."

In this respect, President Bush said: "I am well enough to continue this policy of openness, to continue with the Americas Initiative."

The Argentine president told Bush that it was "a great piece of news" that he is now well, and he wished him "success" in his election campaign.

Economic Programs Submitted to IMF Analyzed

PY1901235092 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 17 Jan 92 p 16

[Text] The economic projections on the future of the Argentine economy in the next three years, presented to the IMF by Economic Programming Secretary Juan Jose Llach, predicts that the operational surplus (the difference between public income and expenses) will reach $2.371 billion in 1992, $2.685 billion in 1993, and $2.729 billion in 1994. Exports are also expected to increase from $12 billion in 1992 to $14 billion in 1994 and imports from $9 billion to $13 billion during the same period.

Just as CLARIN anticipated, [Economy Minister] Domingo Cavallo's idea is to implement the extended loan facility that was requested from the IMF based on the previous projections on 1 January, thus taking advantage of the government's good fiscal performance (including privatizations) during the last quarter of 1991. The government will propose using the figures of the standby [preceding word in English] agreement that were established for the first quarter of 1992 as the basis for the agreement, extending them until June, however, to include the entire first six months.

This is so because the $600 million surplus promised for the quarter will be difficult to save due to the delayed December bonus and other salary payments that were "kicked" [postponed] until January. In January, therefore, we will have an operational deficit of $200 million or more.

These figures and comments are part of the second 1992 report published by M&S Consultants (Carlos Melconian and Rodolfo Santangelo).

The government promised continuous fiscal surpluses to the IMF, similar to the operative surplus of the second half of 1991 that totaled $1.153 billion (which, if extended to 12 months, would reach $2.306 billion; that is, nearly $200 million per month). These surpluses are $2.371 billion for 1992, $2.685 billion for 1993, and $2.729 billion for 1994.

According to the report, something very important is accomplished this way: The primary surplus [interest not included] decreases along with the end of privatizations (that is, with the end of "grandma's jewels") but "nothing happens, there is no additional burden." Gradually, the operative surplus will be enough to pay our internal and external debts' net values.

This will be noted in 1993 and 1994 because in 1992 the rate of privatizations will still be high: $1.985 billion worth. If we add this amount to the projected $2.371 billion operative surplus for 1992, we have a primary surplus this year that will reach $4.356 billion. Revenues provided by privatizations will drop to $350 million in 1993 and zero in 1994. That year, therefore, the operative surplus ($2.729 billion) will be identical to the primary surplus.

The study also analyzes details of large 1992 privatizations, which will, in fact, produce more than $2.8 billion. However, 30 percent of what is collected is earmarked for the social security system. Therefore, $1.985 billion will be added to fiscal accounts.

Oil: The government will obtain $700 million from the sale of the Austral and Northwest oil basins and equipment.

Energy: Revenues will reach $800 million from the sale of Segba [Greater Buenos Aires Electrical Service Company], Water and Energy [State Water and Power Company], and Hidronor [North Patagonia Hydroelectric Company] power plants.

Transport and State Gas Distribution: It will provide $600 million.

Ships, ocean lines, ELMA's [Argentine Shipping Lines] hospital, and others: Revenues provided by this state enterprise will reach $100 million. It is estimated that bids for Telecom [Telecommunications Company] shares will produce $400 million, and other items, such as the sale of the National Mortgage Bank and other real estate, will produce $150 million.

Previous estimates calculated revenues from the sale of the State Gas Corporation at $1.33 billion, but this amount now has been reduced to $600 million, and the sale of Hidronor for nearly $400 million has become relatively more important. The state hopes to recover loans for $120 million from the sale of the National Mortgage Bank, and the net worth of the underwriting [previous word in English] of $300 million plus commissions from the sale of Telecom shares. Revenues on the sale of 10 percent of companies' shares at a preferential price to present employees is not included.

According to Llach's figures that are reproduced by M&S, the government plans to maintain the exchange rate of one peso to the dollar during the next three years. The inflation rate calculated based on retail and wholesale prices (50 percent on retail and 50 percent on wholesale prices) is expected to stay between 6 and 7 percent per year. The gross domestic product is expected to increase by 6.5 percent each of the next three years. Exports are expected to increase from $12 billion in 1992 to $14 billion in 1994, while imports are expected to increase from $9 billion to $13 billion.

The program concentrates on increasing fiscal collections despite important taxes that will be reduced or terminated; such as the tax on debts, which will drop from the current 1.2 percent to 0.3 percent in March and zero in June 1992, and the elimination in April of company contributions and the tax on financial services (Cuasefi). The revenues from the stamp tax and the 1.5-percent tax on agricultural exports that are earmarked for INTA [National Institute for Agricultural Technology] will be eliminated in 1993.

The government has instituted the IEPE (Tax on Business Primary Surplus), which is expected to produce $5.327 billion in the last nine months of 1992 (it will become effective in April if Congress approves it), $2.851 billion in 1993, and $3.28 billion in 1994.

Finally, the IVA [value added tax] will produce $10.801 billion during 1992, including the 11 percent allotted to the Single Social Security System (SUSS), but it will climb to $14.296 billion in 1994.

Roundup of Economic Reports 9-15 Jan

PY1601150692

[Editorial Report] Following are reports on economic activities in Argentina monitored by Paraguay Bureau from 9 through 15 January. Source, date, and time are given in parentheses after each item.

More than half the cost of living increases registered since the implementation of the Convertibility Plan on April 1 were prompted by rises in prices of private sector services, the Industry and Trade Secreteriat disclosed yesterday. In April-December 1991, private services prices rose by 32 percent, or 10.9 percent above retail inflation. The steepest price increases recorded were: doctor and dentist fees, 56.2 percent; hotel prices, 51.2 percent; theater and cinema tickets, 44.3 percent; and housing rent, 43 percent. (DYN) (Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 9 Jan 92 p 3)

Chilean exports to Argentina rose by 122 percent between January and November last year compared to the same period in the previous year, the Chilean Embassy announced. Although December figures have not yet been released, Chilean shipments to Argentina totaled 218.5 million dollars for the January-November 1991 period, while the same period totaled 98.3 million in 1990. According to the embassy, fruits, vegetables, ores (copper and semi-finished products), foodstuffs, paper and printing products, chemicals, timber, threads, and clothing were the main items traded. Thanks to recently signed economic integration treaties, the embassy said, the upward trend is expected to continue. The embassy also pointed out a marked rise in Chilean investment in Argentina, especially in the services, software, industrial, and marketing sectors. (DYN) (Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 10 Jan 92 p 5)

GTE Must Bid for Communications System

PY2001220492 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Jan 92 p 7

[Text] (DYN-NA)—The United States company GTE "will have to participate in the next bidding process" if it wishes to take charge of the government communications system, stressed Defence Minister Erman Gonzalez, who repeated yesterday that the administration of US President George Bush put no pressure on the deal.

Gonzalez, who is vacationing along the pearly beaches of Punta del Este, also told reporters yesterday that the removal of Miguel Angel Vicco from the government "was a tough blow for the President (Carlos Menem)."

"Any human being, when he sees his friend punished and considers the penalty unjust, would be concerned," stated Gonzalez, who stressed that, nevertheless, "the President has said that the country is above such bias."

Regarding the controversy over the tender for a new government communications system, Gonzalez asserted that during his last meeting with the US Ambassador in

Argentina, Terence Todman, he was informed only of discontent over the contract on the part of GTE.

He revealed that the instructions given concerning the bidding process were to communicate, to the 12 interested companies, the ruling of the Joint Chief-of-Staff that "the second envelope (containing the financial offers) would not be opened."

The minister explained that the restructuring of the Armed Forces "changed the original reasons for inviting" the companies to install a communications system and that, moreover, "there are no budget allocations to cover the cost."

Law Prohibits Toxic Waste From Entering Country

PY1901212892 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Jan 92 p 11

[Excerpt] (DYN-NA)—The government enacted yesterday Law 24051 over Dangerous Wastes which prohibits the entrance of such materials into Argentina and sets for offenders stiff economic penalties and jail sentences reaching a maximum of 25 years.

Likewise, the measure requires the government to inform the people about the production, control, transport, handling and final dumping of toxic wastes.

At the same time, the executive power enacted Law 24059 of Internal Security yesterday, which establishes the judicial means, mechanisms and functions, for guaranteeing the "total enforcement" of the Constitution. The law also provides for the creation of a bicameral financial commission.

The norm also empowers the Armed Forces to intervene only in "exceptional cases" as defined by the President.

The law, which Congress passed on December 18, 1991, was put into force with all of its 45 articles that were published in the Official Bulletin on the mentioned date of passage.

Regarding the law prohibiting the dumping of toxic wastes in Argentina, which both Houses passed on December 17 last year, the measure actually went into effect on January 8, 1992, but starting yesterday, it began a 90-day period of gradual enforcement.

Like the Internal Security Law, it was published in the Official Bulletin on the day of passage along with its 68 articles and two additional clauses. [passage omitted]

Menem Answers Critics: Country Functioning Well

PY2001171692 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] The president of the nation, Dr. Carlos Saul Menem, has said that those who tolerated and disguised or made an attempt to disguise corruption are the ones who are criticizing the government.

The head of state stressed that, although much remains to be done, Argentina is functioning well because it solved problems inherited from the past Radical Civic Union administration, such as hyperinflation, which put us on the verge of a civil war.

Papers Publishing Accusations To Be Sued

PY1701171892 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2349 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Jan (TELAM)—Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano has referred to charges of corruption in government. He said tonight that President Carlos Menem has approved his decision to sue any media that slander or offend "the good name of individuals and the principle of innocence established in our constitutional system."

Manzano told journalists at Government House that the interior secretary position, which was occupied by Juan Carlos Mazzon who has just resigned, will not be filled.

Manzano said: "We will reorganize the ministry's functions and work on new relations with the provinces. On the political front, we can announce that Adelina de Viola will be transferred to the Institutional Relations Secretariat. Alfredo Gutierrez, currently interior under secretary in charge or relations with the provinces, will continue in his post. [quotation marks as received]

Asked about the lawsuits against that part of the media which accuses public officials without proof, Manzano said: "The president said we will sue them, and we have already done so in some cases."

Manzano stressed: "We have to look after these three values: first, the people's claim that there is corruption, because we do not want impunity in cases of corruption; second, freedom of the press, because we should not have freedom of the press with court persecutions; and third, individuals' reputations and the principle of innocent until proven guilty that is established in our constitutional system."

Manzano said: "The way to defend our system is for individuals who have been slandered or offended to go to court and sue the offender. A government has a temporary lifespan, but our constitutional system continues. We must protect it at all costs."

Regarding the situation in Corrientes, Manzano said that today he received Corrientes Province Governor Hugo Mancini. He added that he told Mancini that "we do not want to intervene, we want the people in Corrientes to solve their own problems. The best solution is to make the electoral college work."

Deputy Baylac Files Slander Suit Against Menem

PY1901213092 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] (NA)—Radical Deputy Juan Pablo Baylac filed suit yesterday against President Carlos Menem, charging him with slander for accusing Baylac of conspiring against the government.

The deputy presented his case in the federal court presided over by Nestor Blondi, which is under the supervision of Judge Amelia Berraz de Vidal during the summer recess.

In the filing suit, Baylac recalled that Menem charged him with "forming part of a conspiracy" and behaving in a manner "destructive to the country" for presenting a proposal in the Lower House to ask the executive branch for information concerning the installation of 50 natural-gas service stations.

In his original request for information, Baylac said he asked the executive branch for "the precedents, details and transactions made by the federal government and the Mutual Association of Taxi Drivers for the construction and development of 50 compressed natural-gas retail stations."

Government Officials on Corruption Charges

PY1901212692 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Jan 92 p 11

[Text] (DYN-NA)—A number of high-ranking government officials yesterday expressed an array of reactions in an effort to counter recent corruption charges levied against it, which, among other things, triggered the resignation of former Presidential Secretary Miguel Angel Vicco.

Buenos Aires Governor Eduardo Duhalde contended that "structural corruption in the state is more serious" than the series of fraud cases that has consumed public attention recently.

Speaking to a Buenos Aires radio, Duhalde said that "people pay more attention to these cases, but the more harmful corruption is the one that has made the state overlook the essential function for which it was created."

The governor added that he doubted that Vicco, former PAMI [Comprehensive Medical Assistance plan] trustee Miguel Nazur and former Somisa [Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association] trustee Jorge Triaca, who was indicted on embezzlement and malfeasance charges, were close friends of the President.

All three men that resigned after being accused of corruption "have a friendly relation with the President, but I don't think they're his best friends," he continued.

Duhalde concluded that "before, when people mentioned corruption the President reacted like a husband that had been cheated on and denied the facts. Now, the important thing is that we've begun to solve" the problem.

Justice Minister Leon Arslanian meanwhile asserted that it was biased to claim the government is not investigating corruption charges levied against it.

The minister said the Menem administration "has shown interest in carrying forward investigations into such scandalous charges of corruption."

However, Arslanian stressed that the government was worried by the media's harping on the corruption scandals.

"There are things that deserve to be denounced because they're suspicious but the persistent way in which the press publishes these stories is cause for concern."

The minister went on to deny that there was an orchestrated campaign against the government and asked the public to be patient with judicial investigations under way.

Furthermore, presidential Chief of Staff Eduardo Bauza denied that the government was brimming with corrupt officials: "The government is not worried about this situation because generalized corruption in our administration simply does not exist. Unfortunately, there are certain people trying to create the illusion that corruption is rampant; that is just not so."

The presidential chief of staff also revealed that every government official accused of wrongdoings had received explicit presidential instructions to file a lawsuit against his accusers and force them to provide hard evidence.

Bauza emphasized that the government's popularity would not be affected by the scandals. "The people back this government. A lot of very important things that nobody dared to do before are being done. Through state reform we're attacking corruption at its very roots."

Minister Says Campaign Waged Against Peronists

PY1901211892 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Jan 92 p 5

[Text] (NA)—Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano stated yesterday that a campaign is being waged to "replace the Peronists from the national cabinet."

Interviewed by a newspaper RIO NEGRO newspaper, Manzano accused "certain journalists and sectors of the opposition" of trying to "destroy the climate of stability we're living in."

The minister also downplayed corruption charges levied against numerous government officials: "It's not a serious problem. Argentines are more worried with what's happening with the old age pensioners, health issues and the education system. We're not staring at the face of disaster as some sectors want to make people believe."

Manzano added that Interior Secretary Juan Carlos Mazzon, who resigned over corruption allegations, is "a man with a great career." He insisted that the resignations of other government officials "do not present a minicrisis for the Menem administration. A lot of the replacements had been planned" before the scandals broke out.

Finally, Manzano stressed that "political surveys show that the President and all his ministers enjoy a very positive image in the eyes of the people."

Bolivia

Economic Planning Council Approves 1992 Budget

PY2001141692 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] The National Economic and Planning Council [Coneplan] yesterday approved the 1992 budget, which provides a 10-percent salary increase for workers nationwide and an increase of [word indistinct] percent in the value-added tax; that is, it was increased from 10 percent to 13 percent.

In keeping with the social plan announced by the president of the Republic in his August speech, and in support of the country's poor, a 260-percent increase over the 1991 percentage has been approved for the social plan. That is, a budget amounting to $28 million was approved in 1991, while this year it was increased to $102 million. Samuel Doria Medina, planning and coordination minister, provided the following report:

[Begin recording] It has been decided to maintain the salary policy, which is designed to recover the purchasing power of salaries by taking into account the inflation rate expected in 1992, which is estimated at 10 percent. Consequently, workers' salaries were increased by 10 percent. This increase will favor the education and health industries, which will receive a greater increase than other areas. [end recording]

As for the public administration budget, Doria Medina also reported that the salary for ministry and university employees will not be readjusted, because last year they received a 50-percent salary increase, more than the amount established in the budget.

[Begin Medina recording] It has been considered the [word indistinct] for 1992 because of the reduction of resources stemming from gas exports to Argentina. Expenditures will be cut in all areas. There will only will be an overall salary increase. All other resources will be similar in nominal terms to those assigned in 1991. In view of the reduced income that will affect the country in 1992, all areas will have to reduce their expenditures and adapt to this new, lower income to reach stability and growth, which is the objective of all Bolivians, and to which all aspects of the economic policy are subject. We will have stability and growth, as well as a [word indistinct] policy. [end recording]

The 1992 budget must be submitted to the economic committee on 21 January, then to Congress on 27 January.

Agriculture Minister Discusses Coca Eradication

PY1601211492 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Jan 92

[All dates and figures as heard]

[Text] Some 5,487 hectares of coca were eradicated in 1991. The eradication will continue this year until the predicted quota is achieved.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mauro Bertero, agriculture, campesino affairs, and livestock affairs minister has given a full explanation of why this situation occurred in spite of government efforts.

[Bertero] The price problem has made it impossible to eradicate the 7,000 hectares. There was also... [pauses] you friends of the press will remember that I fully explained to the public that, regardless of the government's will and technical efforts, favorable prices are required to meet coca eradication quotas. In 1990 the government had a quota of 6,000 hectares, but it was able to eradicate 8,250 hectares because coca prices were favorable.

With low prices, the peasants are much more interested in substitutes for coca crops. The exact opposite occurred this year: The average price has been very high, and that has prevented us from meeting the quota. [end recording]

Armed Forces Not To Help

PY1801133292 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Report from Santa Cruz]

[Text] Agriculture Minister Mauro Bertero has denied that the Armed Forces have participated in the eradication of the coca leaf, as some peasant leaders from the tropical area of Cochabamba Department have charged.

There has not been, there is not now, and there will be no participation by the Armed Forces in the eradication of coca plantations. It is only an assertion of the leaders of the tropical area of Cochabamba Department who, on observing that they were losing ground, are now beginning to make remarks that have nothing to do with reality, the minister said.

Referring to the eradication of coca plantations, he also stated that last year's quota of 7,000 hectares will be complied with during the first 3 months of 1992, because only 5,800 hectares were eradicated, and the U.S. Embassy has given the go-ahead.

Bertero also referred to the government's decision to increase the value-added tax, VAT, from 10 to 13

percent, indicating that this measure in intended to compensate for the deficit that will occur when the gas sales contract ends with Argentina.

In view of the opposition by Santa Cruz businessmen to the official measure, the minister said that businesses will be required to comply with a series of measures in order to contribute to the ongoing government fight against poverty.

He acknowledged that the businessmen's demand is legitimate, but all of us must help the government ace its challenges, such as the efficient servicing of education, health, and other areas.

Church Mediating COB-Government Negotiations

PY1701175692 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Report by Nicolas Sanabria]

[Excerpts] Negotiations between the government and workers have been suspended; thus, the social conflict has deteriorated. It is now 72 hours since the church asked government and Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] representatives to negotiate, but talks have not resumed because the government has officially stated that it does not accept the COB's conditions.

Although the COB executive board has submitted a document to the Bolivian Bishops' Conference announcing its willingness to resume the dialogue, the executive branch—which has not even bothered to answer the church's request—has stated that it will not talk. This was reported by Labor Minister Oscar Zamora Medinacelli.

[Begin recording] [Medinacelli] They do not want to talk. They just want to intensify their actions. Let them do so.

[Question indistinct]

[Medinacelli] (?The truth is that there is nothing definite except) the government's good disposition. I believe that no one should respond with [passage indistinct]. This surely follows a plan. I cannot understand how they can be rejected by [word indistinct] and threaten the country. [end recording]

Although the Catholic Church, which is mediating the COB-government conflict, has not received a response from the government, it is optimistic that negotiations will resume within a few hours.

Here is a statement by Father (?Hugo Ara), the Bolivian Bishops' Conference representative:

[Begin Ara recording] COB representatives visited the Bolivian Bishops' Conference general secretariat to officially inform us of the decisions adopted in yesterday's COB assembly. Moreover, they also asked the Catholic Church to convene a COB-government dialogue.

Despite the willingness expressed two days ago to find a solution to the conflict, the church is concerned about the two groups' antagonistic positions. The church is currently looking for some points of discussion among the points submitted by the COB that may contribute to a dialogue We have been permanently meeting in search of effective results. [end recording]

The COB position in light of the government's refusal to undertake negotiations was expressed during a news conference yesterday by the COB executive board. Its members explained that Bolivian workers are willing to undertake negotiations to achieve a solution to the social conflict for the good of the nation.

(?Rosa Rivera), COB organization secretary, criticized the government's refusal to undertake negotiations:

[Begin recording] Once again, government authorities are showing their complete lack of willingness to discuss the problems the COB has submitted to the government. The fact that the government is (?refusing) to accept the church's request and is failing to fulfill the agreements achieved in the meeting with the church categorically shows that it is the government that is refusing to discuss the issues with the COB. [end recording]

In view of the situation and the executive branch's refusal to resume negotiations, rumors circulating within the COB, among some groups, and on the streets state that the government will enforce the state of siege. [passage omitted]

Street demonstrations are intensifying all over the country. La Paz miners and union members yesterday blocked the sector surrounding San Francisco square, thus causing a huge traffic jam. [passage omitted]

Government To Resume Dialogue

PY1801140692 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Excerpt] The government will resume its dialogue with the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] to seek an understanding that will lead to a solution to the current conflict. This is being done after the president gave precise instructions to his close aides.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] President Jaime Paz Zamora has instructed the ministers to explore new avenues for resuming the dialogue with the goal of arriving at an understanding with the COB regarding the workers' legitimate problems.

[Unidentified speaker] The president has instructed us to continue to seek possibilities that will lead to an understanding for a dialogue with the COB and its leaders.

You know that the search for a dialogue and understanding is a position maintained by the government. We are going to try and comply with the president's instructions, and we will let him know the outcome.

At this time, I do not want to say any more on this topic.

The president is also aware that the constitutional mandate obliges us to maintain public order and to see that the laws are respected.

[Reporter] A backward step in the government's position? This and other questions could have originated in the president's new instructions.

[Second unidentified speaker] No. It must be understood once and for all that it is not a backward step. On the contrary, it is another demonstration, another reiteration of the spirit of dialogue and understanding that guides the government's actions when it finds certain problems in its path.

The correct thing to say would be that it is a gesture that demands an attitude of reciprocity from this radical section of the COB. We hope that this reciprocity, a benefit of the interests of the working class itself, will emerge within the next few hours, within the great democratic spirit with which we are undertaking this problem. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Brazil

Collor Removes Social Action, Labor Ministers

PY1701230892 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] President Fernando Collor today removed the social action and the labor and social welfare ministers; two deputies have been appointed to replace the outgoing ministers. In the following report from Brasilia, journalist Alexandre Garcia explains why President Collor decided to reshuffle his Cabinet.

[Begin recording] When he arrived in Planalto Palace at 0900 this morning, President Collor had already made up his mind to remove Ministers Antonio Rogerio Magri and Margarida Procopio in order to give the government greater political weight in Congress and to give greater prestige to the respective ministries. He conveyed his decision to senior officials during a meeting today at 0900 and entrusted Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho with extending the invitations to the new ministers: Deputies Ricardo Fiuza [Liberal Front Party, Pernambuco State] and Reinhold Stephanes [Liberal Front Party, Parana State].

Because Stephanes was in Brasilia, he accepted the president's offer this morning. Deputy Fiuza was in Recife and did not return to Brasilia until 1530 this afternoon, at which time he received the invitation. Only after Fiuza was invited did Ministers Magri and Procopio learn that they had been fired.

Early tonight, the two ministers-designate and the two outgoing ministers went to Planalto Palace to be officially notified. Upon leaving Planalto Palace, Magri gave another clue to the reason for his departure. He said: I am leaving the government to enable the president to touch the nation. [end recording]

Social Security Chief Resigns

PY1901014092 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The government will insist on congressional approval of its project to increase contributions to the national social security fund. That decision was made today during a meeting with the new social action and labor and social security ministers in Brasilia. The new ministers have begun work before being installed because they are discussing a problem that cannot be delayed: how to obtain the 11 trillion cruzeiros that the social security fund lacks to pay the 147-percent readjustment for pensioners.

[Begin Reinhold Stephanes, labor and social security minister, recording; identified by caption] The fact that there are only two contributors for each pensioner is a great difficulty. We must first solve this emergency, while the structural, organizational, and management problems obviously must be solved either simultaneously or in time. [end recording]

The alternatives for the social security problem were also analyzed, not just by new Labor Minister Reinhold Stephanes and Social Action Minister Ricardo Fiuza, but also by Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho, Health Minister Alceni Guerra, and Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira.

Secretary (Sergio Couto) and [Economic Policy Secretary] Roberto Macedo brought their calculators to provide Deputy Humberto Souto [government leader in the Chamber of Deputies] figures with which to negotiate with Congress. After several calculations, everyone was convinced that the money for the pensioners cannot be taken from the 1992 national budget. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, INSS [National Institute of Social Security] President Jose Arnaldo Rossi placed his post at the disposal of the labor and social security minister. Before leaving the institute, he will compile all the information about the social security system for the new minister.

Although he tendered his resignation, his departure date has not yet been set. Rossi will remain in Brasilia as long as he is needed. Nonetheless, he is anxious to rest from the evil role he has recently had to play before all pensioners, as he himself has said. The change in the INSS president will help the government's negotiations with Congress, but it does not solve the real problem of the crisis: No one wants to pay costs that are 40 percent above inflation in order to pay the pensioners.

[Begin Rossi recording] If salaries do not even keep pace with inflation, pensioners' benefits cannot increase 40 percent above inflation. Pardon me, but this is clearly a problem that must be faced separately from all other matters without further questioning. [end recording]

If the INSS president's resignation will help improve the atmosphere of the negotiations, the appointment of new ministers may bring more people into the debate: the state governors. The governors are expected to arrive in Brasilia on 20 January to attend the swearing-in ceremony for the new ministers. The governors will be invited to help the government find a solution to the 147-percent readjustment. The most important point of the draft bill, which increases contributions to the social security system, is Article 7, which annuls all effects of the real increase that was recently granted for the next readjustment scheduled for July 1992.

New Ministers Take Office

PY2001172092 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Summary] President Collor de Mello administered the oath of office to new Social Action Minister Ricardo Fiuza and new Labor Minister Reinhold Stephanes during a ceremony held at Planalto Palace today.

Pension Readjustment Payments Begin in Sao Paulo

PY1801112692 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] The 147-percent readjustment of retired workers' pensions began to be paid today in Sao Paulo. The payment was made without monetary adjustments because the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics still has not released December inflation rate figures.

The pensioners who were able to collect their readjustment only received half of what they were allotted. The INSS [National Institute of Social Security] did not pay any monetary adjustments for September, November, and December. [as heard]

[Begin recording of pensioner Dino Cossi, identified by caption] If I had saved this money in a regular bank savings account, today I would have earned 200,000 or 300,000 cruzeiros in interest. [end recording]

Tired of waiting and mad about the small amounts being paid today, the pensioners decided to leave the bank lines and go protest in front of the Municipal Theater. Waving their pensioner identification cards in their hands, the pensioners marched up to the INSS building. [Demonstrators are heard chanting: "Monetary Correction Now!"]

During a meeting with INSS Superintendent Roberto Santiago, the pensioners only heard a promise:

[Begin recording] [Santiago] As soon as the December inflation rate is released, I will ask Brasilia for authorization to pay the difference.

[Reporter Graciela Azevedo, identified by caption] If you have the September, October, and November inflation rates, why were those months' monetary adjustments not paid?

[Santiago] Because the judge's sentence does not specify the components of the payment. The sentence says that it must be a total payment from September until the date the payment must be made. [end recording]

Collor Delays Payment

PY2101004892 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Report by Alicia Santiago at the Justice Ministry]

[Text] President Fernando Collor has just signed a decree postponing until 1993 the payment of the 147-percent readjustment for retirees and pensioners. The president made use of a constitutional measure known as precatory credit [credito precatorio]. The news was reported by Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho.

According to Minister Passarinho, the decree simply is a temporary measure to solve the current welfare system difficulties until the resources being requested in the government project submitted to Congress are approved. The minister also said that negotiations for obtaining approval for the project that modifies contributions to the welfare system will continue.

[Begin Passarinho recording] We (?sought) a temporary measure to solve the current difficulties until we obtain the resources we are requesting from Congress. According to the Constitution, these resources only begin to be received 90 days after the implementation of the resource-generating device. If Congress approves the essence of the project, as we expect, we will begin to have the money in cash; if we are lucky, after May. [end recording]

Attorney General Aristides Junqueira will file charges of unconstitutionality at the Federal Supreme Court against Article 130 of the Welfare System Costs and Benefices Law. This article prevents the federal government from asking for the return of what has been paid on court orders, even if the Supreme Court rules in favor of the federal government.

Article Seven of Collor's 'Agenda for Consensus'

PY1501201692 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Jan 92 Section 1 p 6

[Seventh article by President Fernando Collor in the "Agenda for Consensus" series: "A Social-Liberal View of Ecology"]

[Text] The current rapidly developing socioeconomic transformations demand convincing proposals for new problems that are not included in the classical analysis of socialism or liberalism. If a political doctrine is established today, it must deal with ecological issues in a serious and competent manner.

Social-liberalism accepts this challenge. It intends to answer modern-day challenges in a coherent and creative manner.

In a previous article, I drew attention to the fact that freedom also means allowing people to have access to things. The curtailment of the people's right to access to social goods, to the freedom to choose life opportunities, both in employment and leisure, makes them a privilege. Democracy is thus degraded because an oligarchy is established. Today, freedom means to actively participate in society and to have a dignified life.

Social-liberalism intends to include the right to have an environmentally safe planet among the basic human rights.

It also proposes that the search for simple measures regarding the balance of man and nature and ecological issues cannot be exclusively dealt with from a technical point of view because it involves fundamental concepts of social relations.

In this regard, ecological issues may be viewed as new reflections on the practice of democracy, on its meaning in an unjust world.

There are several forms of environmental degradation. Some are done consciously and are carried out prilmarily in highly industrialized countries. They are the result of a consumerism that has dangerously become the only motivation in achieving development. Other forms are done unconsciously, and they are the result of the struggle for survival in the world's poorest countries.

The concentration of wealth and knowledge in the hands of a few in the last few decades has deteriorated developing countries both on domestic and international levels. The dimension of the difference is overwhelming: Of the world's population, 77 percent currently lives in developing countries, but they possess only 16.8 percent of the world's wealth. In 1990, 93 percent of births occurred in so-called Third World countries. A total of 1.2 billion people live in conditions below the poverty level in developing countries, and the life expectancy of their population is an average of 12 years less than in developed countries.

From a strictly historical point of view, if democracy is to fully develop human potential, there could not be any democratic coexistence that would be ethically acceptable while these differences exist at the domestic and international levels. Solidarity is the basis for the construction of a harmonious development level.

The social-liberal proposal is an appeal for dialogue.

In the last two years, we have had the privilege of witnessing one of those rare moments in which an entire ideology is buried by history. We have witnessed the failure of a state-controled economy that resulted in backwardness, inefficiency, the destruction of the environment, and poverty in regions that could have flourished with development and prosperity.

But the success of the market economy does not assure us that we will be successful in changing today's distortions. It is not enough to create and adopt a new development model that will be capable of propitiating growth, well-being, social justice, and respect for nature.

We must urgently introduce this all-encompassing social issue into economic liberalism.

This proves that we cannot have an environmentally safe planet in a socially unjust world.

It is not a question of ignoring the lofty objective of well-being achieved through material development and fully experienced by a minority; we are aware that in the long term it is impossible for wealthy countries to maintain their current levels of consumption and waste. How will we be able to transfer these patterns to developing countries? There are no physical or financial resources.

This is why we must first review our own concept of development; a development that is not measured by mere growth statistics; a development that, in addition to the social indicators of the majority, includes a real and effective concern for the protection of the environment.

There are no quick answers to this problem. We know that the modification of the current picture of unfairness and ecological destruction will demand the adoption of a new development model, one that realizes that the earth is a living organism that encompasses limited biophysical resources.

We need to redefine objectives by redefining our ways of measuring development. In view of their deep democratic and humanitarian concepts, the supporters of social-liberalism believe that citizens' well-being may be better measured when economic gains are equal to the degree of freedom and justice, to the level of social and cultural wealth of nations, to ethnic and racial integration, to the protection of the environment; that is, to all the elements that reflect the true happiness and achievement of a nation. We would thus have a more human and more sensitive indicator that may perhaps be named "The National Well-Being Product."

One thing is certain: Social-liberalism, a political-economic philosophy that strives to reconcile individual freedom, economic efficiency, and social justice, can contribute to the concretization and implementation of this new model, which is based on sustained and fair development with the purpose of safeguarding not only current but also future generations.

Thus social-liberalism offers the basis for a necessary dialogue on the planet's future. In view of its geographic dimensions, the importance and diversity of Brazilian ecology, in view of the fact that we will host the Rio '92 conference—which will be a landmark in the history of the debate on the environment—Brazil can make a decisive contribution toward the solidaristic effort to begin a new phase in the ties between man and nature.

Article Eight

PY1601134492 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Jan 92 Section 1 p 3

[Eighth article by President Fernando Collor in the "Agenda for Consensus" series: "An Open Debate"]

[Text] This series of articles on social-liberalism owes a lot to the ideas of Jose Guilherme Merquior, a vigorous defender of the liberal argument, an argument that claims to be the permanent dialogue between free men within the noble framework of politics. I have intended to be faithful to the argument.

A liberal vision was decisive in the making of the great nations in the modern world, and it will also be decisive in transforming Brazil into a modern country, a just land.

I am motivated by the great faith I have in Brazil, in our talent, in our willpower, in our capability to live democratically, and, above all, in our ability to implement the transformations we all desire.

The country has already begun fundamental changes. Our public agenda is in sync with today's times and, therefore, with society's expectations. The goals are clear: Do away with privileges; implement equal opportunities; do away with the oversized and inefficient nest-like state; and free society's forces so they can implement modernization within the framework of a social market economy. It is necessary to advance, however, and the social-liberal ideas can help in preparing the new steps.

In democratic systems, the government acts responsibly. It must constantly serve the citizenry. In the situation in which we live, the responsibility of my post cannot be limited to the conduct of government policies, something to which I dedicate much effort and work with the objective of constant improvement. Our challenges are greater, and they require that the president sponsor a broad debate on the objectives that must guide modernization.

The ideas I have presented are not meant to be original or academic. They are not strict rules or final truths. Their greatest merit consists in systematically, along lines of understanding, reflecting on some basic issues of our national reality that, I do not doubt, many Brazilians of different ideological and party leanings share.

Social-liberalism is a natural consequence and an assertion of our presidential campaign proposals. After two years of administration, these proposals have taken form. It was an appropriate time to resume them since the political situation created an appropriate atmosphere for their discussion. If we are going to pass to a new stage of the political process in which we must define the instruments with which to attain the national objectives of modernization and social justice, it is essential that the debate be guided by doctrinal criteria.

Opportunism, short-term solutions, exchanges of favors, and immediacy do not serve us; on the contrary, they only harm construction of a real national project. The first stage of such a project is to change political methods, which ought to nourish integrated ideas and perspectives about the future.

The core of the liberal argument is an acceptance of pluralism. The best political solutions are those that spring from debate, from the clash of opinions and interests. Politically, social-liberalism currently represents a call to upgrade the political debate in order to place it at the level of ideas.

Ideas can always be evaluated and improved. They resist stillness, they suggest dynamism and changes.

The whole vision of the social-liberal world may be summarized in one conviction: It is possible and necessary to attain the modernization of Brazil based on liberal ethics, which have inspired the historic changes of our times.

More than 100 years ago, our greatest national personalities denounced our greatest shortcomings. A decade before the Republic was born, Rui Barbosa [prominent jurist 1849-1923] denounced, in terms that are currently valid, Brazil's educational deficit, our backwardness in the field of education. A few years later, before the abolition of slavery, Joaquim Nabuco [prominent writer and diplomat 1849-1910] noticed that the Brazilian masses suffered chronic social and material problems, which continued after the abolition of slavery.

Democratic freedom currently allows us to know, without disguise, all our shortcomings. Reality is transparent and dramatic. Radical changes are demanded in fields that affect our ethical sensibility, such as the situation of our children and teenagers.

Democratic freedom also offers us the path necessary to allow our historic project to become true—not as the result of an authoritarian imposition by a few, but as the result of a real collective national will. It will allow us—far from unilateral solutions, in which quantity prevails over quality and general national needs are forgotten—to seek solutions that take into consideration the common well-being and aspirations of the majority of the Brazilian people.

As the country is preparing to face the political, economic, and technological challenges of a new era, it is essential to improve education in the field of thought and action in order to fully respond to all the dimensions of freedom, in its most modern outlook.

The new Brazil, the truly modern Brazil, is fully aware that the path to modernization requires, above everything, policies that can effectively and rationally ensure the Brazilian peoples' full integration with the standard of living of the developed countries. Developmental overoptimism is senseless. As long as Brazilian man does not live with dignity, we will never be fully developed.

Social liberalism offers us ideas to attain our objectives. It seeks freedom and the rationalization of ethics toward society.

With the social-liberal vision, we are making an effort to respond to the challenges of our time with a creative political agenda of ideals capable of fully complying with the great Western values. Social-liberalism will render a great service to nationality if we build a vigorous, enriched, and conceptual foundation on which national economic dynamics can solidly develop, solving the serious social problems that still strain Brazilian society.

The ideas have been laid out, the debate is open.

Politicians View Articles

PY1601221892

[Editorial Report] Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO on 13 January in Section 1, page 3, in the "Tendecies/ Debates" column carries an approximately 300-word article by Tasso Jereissati entitled "Practice and Rhetoric." Jereissati is national chairman of the Brazilian Social Democratic Party, PSDB.

The article begins by noting that the "president of the Republic cannot be denied the right to draw up an instrument of endoctrination" and points out that "the time has come for concrete actions, not literature."

After saying that it should be admitted that the country has collapsed and that its leaders have failed because they were unable to reach an understanding that will allow the necessary reforms to repair a state and economy in tatters, the article notes that there is no purpose in having good but impractical formulas.

The article ends by noting that there is, on the one hand, "a real agenda revealed by the true economic, social, and political situation the country is enduring and, on the other hand, an idealistic logic of a doctrinaire rhetoric" that shows that, in the Collor government's model, there is a great gap between intentions and actions, which only causes "a lack of confidence that, undoubtedly, greatly increased the difficulties this government has in trying to implement its own policies.

Another article in the same column, approximately 480 words long and entitled "Grist for the Mill," is by Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva, press secretary of the presidency of the Republic.

The article notes the link between the series of articles published by Collor on social-liberalism and the Agenda for Consensus, which "is a concept to express a truly new proposal which, at the same time, intends to constitute the third phase of the undertaking started with the National Reconstruction Project followed by the so-called 'big amendment.'"

It then explains that the Agenda for Consensus is a new proposal because it reflects the needs stemming from the peoples' growing support for the established goals and guidelines followed by Collor's government, and in view of this, "Collor points out the need to draw up an agenda of consensus also regarding the tools and measures necessary to carry out these great objectives."

The article then states that "the president, through his articles, decided to make a contribution to the debate by proposing an ideology that summarizes and develops concepts that already have the peoples' support." After reproaching critics of the president's article, Rosa e Silva notes that he "only wishes to cooperate so the decisions made regarding concrete issues are not only based on sectorial, specific, or local interests," but represent "a true national project."

The third article of approximately 500 words entitled "Fireworks" is by Cesar Maia, federal deputy for the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party.

The article says that developments in late 1991 "seemed to have opened a door to a national understanding." As a means to consolidate this understanding, or at least give it a doctrinaire basis, the president again addresses the people through a "series of articles where he seeks to show he has matured." It then points out that with these articles on social-liberalism—which went into fashion again in the 80's with a strengthened political vigor—the president might have found an ideological pillar for his political practice. After commenting that social-liberalism seeks to reduce the gap between theory and practice, the article points out that in a country without liberals, this ideology might represent a great step forward, and two years in power might have taught Collor that good ideas only enjoy political credibility if accompanied by good practice. But the hopes for an understanding did not last long after the court ruled in favor of an increase for pensioners and the atmosphere of confrontation settled in again.

Maia continues, wondering if there is still a lack of maturity and points out that good ideas but poor practices continue to prevail.

The article ends by noting that 1991 ended with more fireworks than ever, and 1992 also started with fireworks. "In the meantime, the agenda for consensus and social-liberalism helped to illuminate the political scenario, but, like the fireworks, they also burned out."

Collor Promulgates Nuclear Agreement

PY1801182492 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Jan 92 Section 1 p 9

[Text] President Fernando Collor de Mello yesterday promulgated the nuclear cooperation agreement for peaceful purposes that was signed by the Brazilian and Venezuelan Governments. The agreement was approved by Congress in December 1991.

Venezuelan Military Attacks Plane, Killing Two

PY2001164692 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Brazilian Charge d'Affaires (Ricardo de Carvalho) and an official Venezuelan delegation are heading for the Brazilian-Venezuelan border area.

On 17 January a Brazilian plane carrying gold prospectors was attacked near the border. The pilot and a gold prospector died during the incident.

A Venezuelan Army helicopter fired on the Brazilian plane in Venezuelan territory at the headwaters of the Orinoco River, 800 meters from the border with Brazil. According to the National Gold Prospectors Union, the pilot managed to land in the jungle, but the gold prospectors were again attacked by the Venezuelans. This organization also reported that pilot Jose Xavier de Mendonca, who was injured during the attack, died aboard the Venezuelan helicopter. A gold prospector also died, another managed to escape, and three others are reportedly hospitalized on the Venezuelan side of the border.

Foreign Ministry Comments

PY2101011892 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Report by Antonia Marcia Vale]

[Text] According to the Foreign Ministry, the accident with the Brazilian plane that was carrying gold prospectors to Venezuela on 16 January was the result of a technical failure of the fuel system. Initial rumors that the plane had been shot down were denied by the Brazilian Embassy in Caracas. The plane was carrying four people. Pilot Jose Xavier de Mendonca and one of the passengers died at the accident site. Two other passengers, who received help in time, are now out of danger. They are in a hospital in Porto Ayacucho, Venezuela.

The plane was found on 17 January by the Venezuelan Army, which had been searching for it at the request of the Brazilian Government. After receiving a note from the National Gold Prospectors Union on 17 January reporting that a Brazilian plane was missing, the Brazilian Embassy in Caracas asked for the assistance of the Venezuelan Government. That same day, the Venezuelan Government found the plane. At the time, the pilot was still alive. He died, however, on the way to Porto Ayacucho.

Chile

Aylwin Confident of Progress in Trade Negotiation

PY1701200292 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] President Patricio Aylwin expressed confidence that the United States will move toward negotiation of a free trade agreement with Chile. The president added that he knows the negotiation will be long and complex, and he is aware of the political and economic problems facing any country trying to significantly open its markets. Aylwin said the government has the double challenge of consolidating an open economy and strengthening foreign trade, as well as identifying the mechanisms to help overcome poverty and destitution.

[Begin Aylwin recording] There is a lesson that has been made quite clear by events over the past two years: The future of the world is on a single track. The much-forecasted global interdependence has been realized. Chile, as a small country, has very little control over the destiny of the planet, but we are striving to contribute to building a more democratic, prosperous, and socially acceptable world. [end recording]

The president made these remarks during an ordinary session of the Council for International Relations, which he attended at the special invitation of its president (Peter Ternav). Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley and Edgardo Beninger, secretary general of the Presidency, are also scheduled to attend.

Demonstration Held in Front of U.S. Consulate

PY1801160292 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] On the occasion of the first anniversary of the Gulf war, Chilean youth members from 10 political and university movements such as the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left]; JDC [Christian Democratic Party Youth]; FECh [Student Federation of Chile]; and the Palestine Organization Youth [Organizacion de la Juventud Palestina] staged a demonstration in front of the U.S. Consulate building.

In a statement, the youths expressed their support for peace and called on all citizens, particularly youths, to be aware that war is a scourge that results only in death and destruction.

No incidents were reported and the police did not take any action. After reading their statement at the door of the consulate building, the demonstrators withdrew peacefully from the site.

Lautaro Members Placed Under Court Jurisdiction

PY1801000892 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Excerpt] The Investigative Police today placed five members of the Lautaro Youth Movement under court jurisdiction. They have been charged with at least seven murders, 47 holdups, and four attacks on government offices.

This information was officially disclosed in a news conference by Edgardo Rebolledo, who is in charge of the brigade that investigates holdups. The names of the subversives are: Bernardo Antonio Acevedo Lagos, 38,

engineer, who uses the names Marcos, Pablo, Julio, Simon, and El Mejicano; Pilar Alejandra Pena Rincon, 22, who lives with Acevedo and studies psychology; Francisco Javier Flores Munoz, 30, electronics engineer; and Sergio Mauricio Espinoza Serpa, 36, a financial expert who works in a bank; and his wife, Patricia del Rosario Pinto Herrera.

The first four individuals were placed under the jurisdiction of the 17th Criminal Court headed by Marta Carrasco, who will interrogate them this afternoon. The men were taken to the Santiago Jail. [passage omitted]

Krauss: 'Things Will Get Worse' for Lautaro

PY1801151292 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss has announced that the government is studying the possibility of raising charges against members of the Lautaro Group. Regarding the Lautaro Group's announcement that it will launch an offensive in view of the arrest of its top-ranking leaders, Krauss said: They are already having a bad time, but things will get worse for them.

[Begin Krauss recording] Things go bad for those who disrupt democratic coexistence in a state of rights. Those who today are answering for their actions before the courts are responsible for disrupting democracy.

Whoever disrupts democratic coexistence, be they Lautaro Group members or members of any other movement, no matter the affiliation, will have to suffer the consequences. [end recording]

The interior minister made this statement minutes before leaving for Concepcion, where he is scheduled to hold meetings with regional authorities and attend the opening ceremony of the Party for Democracy board.

[Begin Recording] [Reporter (Quintin Ollar Soleiva)] After his arrival in Concepcion, Interior Minister Enrique Krauss said that the facts show that terrorist groups, such as the Lautaro Rebel and Popular Front [FRPL], have not launched a terrorist offensive against the police. The interior minister said the facts also show that there is no terrorist offensive, because there is no evidence showing otherwise. The interior minister said the police institutions are investigating the situation and added that under these circumstances authorities must always work on the basis of objective facts and not on rumors.

Speaking upon his arrival in Concepcion, the interior minister also referred to those who recently announced that they will help political prisoners to escape and who have phoned the media to claim responsibility for terrorist actions.

[Krauss] As I have said many times, there is a tendency to confuse the facts to exploit a given situation. In recent statements, certain groups—not subversive groups, because the latter have expressed their willingness to reinsert themselves into democracy—have arrogantly announced they will carry out actions in support of others. But this is nothing more than a means to encourage crime.

Moreover, the situation is still under investigation because a circumstantial phone call to a news agency—curiously enough, it is always the same news agency that receives these calls, perhaps because it has better communications channels—does not necessarily mean that the incident in question is definitely a terrorist incident.

[(Quintin Ollar Soleiva)] However, the interior minister did not reject the possibility that these may be groups that have splintered from other movements and are perpetrating crimes because they currently are undergoing an anarchic phase.

The interior minister also denied that this situation may destabilize the current government because, he said, it can withstand much more than these crimes. Therefore, Krauss asserted, a democratic regime with such an ample consensus, as the one we have, has never deteriorated as a result of common crimes. Krauss added that at any rate, it cannot be ascertained that the Lautaro Movement, the main organization from which the FRPL stems, has been completely disarticulated as a result of the recent arrests.

Krauss also confirmed that the Investigative Police have arrested eight people in the last few hours in Concepcion. But he said that they are common criminals and nothing else. [end recording]

Government To Investigate MIR Link With ETA

PY2001113892 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Excerpts] According to the Madrid police, four Chilean citizens arrested in Spain had cooperated with ETA's [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] Madrid Commando for the past 13 years. The connection was confirmed following the discovery of the house where industrialist Emiliano Revilla was kept prisoner after being kidnapped. [passage omitted]

In Chile, Minister Enrique Correa reported that the government is investigating the connection between these four Chilean subjects and ETA. The four Chileans were allegedly commissioned to kidnap a person by the Basque terrorist organization.

[Begin recording] There are Chileans who apparently are, or were, MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] militants who cooperated with ETA. The evidence indicates that they participated in an important kidnapping carried out by ETA. We are investigating to ascertain if they have links with terrorist organizations acting in Chile, and to see if they might be required in trials here. For the time being, we are only gathering information. [end recording]

Two Arrested for Arms Case Involvement

PY1801155692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Sixth Military Court Judge Raul Rosas has arrested two employees from the Main Cargo Company, which was responsible for contracting the plane that transported the arms shipment to Hungary. The military judge made this decision after questioning the company's operations manager (Antonio Hahad) and Customs Agent (Sergio Folman). Both of them testified a few days ago in this case, which is also being investigated by the civilian courts. The two were released on bail.

Special Judge Hernan Correa de la Cerda questioned retired Army Captain Pedro Araya Hermosilla for three hours. The army officer was one of those in charge of the customs proceedings of the arms shipment seized in Budapest. Araya, who testified at the Santiago 18th criminal court building, refused to talk to the press after the questioning. [passage omitted]

Senate Approves Bill on Municipal Reform

PY1701151492 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] As we announced yesterday, following a marathon 11-hour session, the Senate at 0600 today approved the draft bill modifying the current municipal law. The special session started at 1915 yesterday and ended shortly after 0600 today.

As was expected, the debate focused on three main issues:

First, television time for municipal elections. After a lengthy debate during which the negative opinion of the National Television Association played an important role, it was decided not to grant space.

Another conflictive issue was the situation of the independent candidates in the electoral system. The National Renewal representatives strongly upheld that independent candidates should enjoy equal constitutional rights. It was decided that they will not run for election on the slate of a political party but on their own slate.

Another lengthy debate was held regarding state financial support for the political parties and independent candidates who obtain more than 3 percent or 2 percent, respectively, of the votes in each district. An estimated 2.1 billion Chilean pesos are earmarked for this purpose. Each vote represents a financial cost of 350 pesos, and it is calculated that six million people will vote.

[Begin recording] [Interior Minister Enrique Krauss] The result is satisfactory. The initiative approved was basically within the terms of the executive branch proposal. It is a step forward, and we thank Congress for it. It will help us fulfill one of our commitments.

[National Renewal Senator Sergio Diez] The Senate version of the electoral system is, in our opinion, quite contradictory. I have no doubt that the Constitutional Tribunal will have more than one observation to make because the bill seeks to favor some political parties instead of seeking equality among Chileans.

[Radical Party Senator Carlos Gonzalez Marquez] We are not satisfied. We think it is necessary to hold municipal elections that will allow the democratization of municipalities. Some items that were incorporated will facilitate good elections. We will have efficient municipalities. This bill can be improved, but what is important is that the Senate approved a new bill that will allow us to have elections on 28 June at the latest. [end recording]

This draft bill that modifies the present municipal law will now return to the Chamber of Deputies where it will have its third legislative review.

Colombia

Reportage on Spanish Prime Minister's Visit

Arrives 17 Jan

PA1801142492 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez arrived in Santa Fe de Bogota from Mexico City on 17 January. Gonzalez, a good friend of Colombia, has visited us three times in his 10 years as prime minister. With the forthcoming commemoration of the fifth centennial of the discovery of America, his visit has special significance for Colombian-Spanish relations.

Felipe Gonzalez, who will stay in Colombia for three days, will visit Cartagena on 18 January. He is here to examine Colombian-Spanish relations with President Gaviria, who received him at the Narino Palace and accompanied him while Gonzalez received military honors.

Economic and judiciary agreements will be signed at the conclusion of his visit. The agreements will be on the Medellin metro, EEC support for Colombian trade, and the exchange of evidence against narcotics traffickers.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] I am delighted to be here again. It has been years since I last visited, and I am very pleased to return. I am here to do a job that I believe will be useful.

[Reporter] What do you think about Colombia at this time?

[Gonzalez] Well, I believe there have been many positive changes, and I hope more will be made.

[Reporter] How about your meeting with the Colombian president and relations with your country?

[Gonzalez] We will announce the results at the end of our meeting.

[Reporter] Give me a clue, Mr. Prime Minister.

[Gonzalez] We have had an interesting conversation. I believe we are going to promote relations between our two countries.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. [end recording]

Meets Gaviria

LD1901214592 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 0800 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Report by Bogota correspondent Javier Arenas on Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's Latin American tour]

[Text] Greater trade exchange in the coming months, a possible treaty on global cooperation, a future agreement on judicial matters, and the probable immediate resolution of a private dispute—as is the construction work on the Medellin metro—are points which define the climate of understanding between Colombia and Spain, two countries that are doing their utmost to forge a closer relationship. As Socialist International vice president, Felipe Gonzalez is completely willing to see the organization act as a mediator in achieving Colombia's total pacification if asked. On the struggle against drug trafficking, the Spanish prime minister repeated three times our country's total willingness to collaborate in whatever was necessary:

[Begin Gonzalez recording, in progress]...totally willing to cooperate in the struggle from the judicial point of view, in the struggle against drug trafficking. There is no obstacle; none. We must overcome any misunderstandings. [end recording]

Iberoamerican democracy—Spain, included—is the rule nowadays, Felipe Gonzalez said, and dictatorship is the exception, with implicit reference to the Cuban exception. Latin American integration was also a concept advocated by Colombian President Cesar Gaviria:

[Begin Gaviria recording] If Latin America wants to play a leading role in constructing the new world realities, it is essential to tackle integration as a task which cannot be delayed. There are many factors which contribute to Iberoamerican integration now having, as Gabriel Garcia Marquez would say, a second chance on Earth. [end recording]

This ended the first day of his visit to Colombia, during which Felipe Gonzalez was able to speak for over four hours with the Republic's president; M-19 leader Navarro Wolff; Gabriel Garcia Marquez, his personal friend and Nobel Prize winner; and twice on Colombian television.

The prime minister's confession as he approaches his 50th birthday was: Fifty is a good age to retire, but I do not know whether I will be in a position to fulfill immediately the announcement made at the time. The prime minister denies that two out of three Spaniards may not want to vote for him, although he acknowledges that the Spanish public may be fed up with him.

Cooperation Issues Discussed

PA1801165292 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo has stated that drug trafficking, supported by the vice of the industrialized countries, was the greatest enemy of democracy in the past decade. The Colombian president spoke during a dinner hosted in honor of Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez at Narino Presidential Palace.

Gaviria explained that drug trafficking is a criminal chain running the length and breadth of the planet, passing through street corners of the big cities where drugs are distributed. He said the only way to defeat the stateless scourge, which has the capacity and resources to move throughout the planet searching for fertile ground for its illegal business, is to stop it with an even stronger chain of solidarity and cooperation. Gaviria added that Colombia has remained firm and has strengthened its judiciary system in the struggle against drugs. We have managed to dismantle several of the main criminal organizations and to turn their leaders over to the courts, he added.

Gaviria also asked the industrialized nations not to increase trade barriers on the developing countries. We want to compete and capture the international markets with those products we can produce efficiently, Gaviria told Prime Minister Gonzalez. The Colombian president described a commercial strategy based on the premise that the overall world economy is moving toward free trade and exchange and the elimination of barriers, tariffs, quotas, and subsidies. Unfortunately, there are symptoms of a dangerous dichotomy in which the industrialized nations yield to the temptation of increasing their trade barriers, protecting their markets, and closing their doors to competition, while the developing countries advance in the opposite direction, President Garivia pointed out. Gaviria voiced his hopes that this trend will not lead to a worldwide commercial war.

Colombia also asked the Spanish Government to provide evidence so Colombian judges can try narcotics traffickers. The multinational and international nature of the crimes committed by the narcotics traffickers demand full cooperation among nations in order to administer full justice, the president added.

President Gaviria noted that, just as in the past, when many countries cooperated with Colombia by providing military assistance for the so-called war, we now expect those same nations to express similar solidarity for the administration of justice. We are sure the Spanish Government will not remain insensible to this call to intensify our cooperation on all fronts, particularly in the field of interaction and cooperation between the judiciary systems, President Gaviria told Prime Minister Gonzalez.

The Spanish Government promised the Colombian Government it would cooperate in every way possible to successfully confront narcotics trafficking. In a speech delivered at Narino Presidential Palace during the dinner hosted by President Gaviria, Gonzalez said his country is willing to cooperate wholeheartedly in the struggle against narcotics trafficking. He offered to ask the Spanish judiciary branch to send the evidence against the narcotics traffickers. He commented that the drug campaign waged by Colombia has full political support in Spain, because the campaign is advancing on an effective road. It is fair for the narcotics traffickers to be punished for their crimes; they must pay for what they have done, Gonzalez pointed out.

He also praised the Colombian economic policy. After pointing out that Colombia is capitalizing, he said foreign investment is attracted to Colombia.

The Spanish prime minister also voiced full support for the peace talks between the Colombian Government and the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, and he offered his cooperation to help the parties reach an agreement. Gonzalez said if the guerrillas and the Colombian president feel his cooperation might help to achieve peace in the country, his government will not spare any efforts to this effect. The Spanish prime minister actively participated in the Salvadoran peace process.

Felipe Gonzalez also met with the members of the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance [AD/M-19], with whom he discussed various political topics. To this effect, AD/M-19 leader Antonio Navarro pointed out that the talks centered on future relations between the AD/M-19 and the Spanish authorities. He warned that he did not at any time request economic assistance from Prime Minister Gonzalez.

Comment on Cuba

PA1901154592 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1216 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Cartagena—Colombia and Spain rejected the death sentences dictated in Cuba and called for a democratic and political solution to the internal problems in that Central American country.

Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez both said that it is difficult to accept and understand the death penalty and that they would not like any person, Cuban or otherwise, to be sentenced to such punishment.

President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo said that Colombia supports the principle of nonintervention not only in Latin America, but throughout the entire world. Gaviria said he hopes the changes that take place in Cuba are in keeping with the country's sovereignty without foreign intervention, because the principle of nonintervention is something sacred that we must support.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez also said that his government is willing to resolve the economic problems concerning the Medellin subway. The Spanish prime minister explained: The situation is not easy, but every effort will be made so the work resumes and difficulties are quickly overcome. Medellin citizens would not forgive me if I ignored the subway problem. I want to tell them that the Spanish Government will resolve this problem for the benefit of everyone.

He explained that the subway negotiations should not hurt bilateral relations between Colombia and Spain. On the contrary, they should be strengthened within the framework of the quincentennial, Gonzalez said.

In addition, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said: Cuba will be present at any Iberian-American summit as long as I can make the decision, especially the one scheduled to be held in Madrid in July.

As for the situation in Cuba and the possible isolation of Fidel Castro's regime, Gonzalez said that he has the privilege of speaking to the Havana leader directly and without obstacles and, when he does, it is only in conciliatory terms, otherwise it is better not to talk.

President Cesar Gaviria and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said they reject any death penalty in Cuba. In a communique signed by Gaviria and Gonzalez, both leaders expressed their interest in the prompt return of Cuba to the Latin American family as a requirement for collective development and stability in the Caribbean.

Finally, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez made a call to the groups that comprise the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board to take advantage of what he called a magnificent opportunity for dialogue. He said that subversion and the use of weapons are protest mechanisms that are no longer used. The Spanish prime minister offered to help promote the peace process in Colombia and called on the Colombian guerrillas to take advantage of the opportunity to lay down their weapons.

The peace meetings between the Colombian Government and the guerrillas began in Caracas on June 1991. They were postponed for the last time in December because of public order problems. They are scheduled to resume on 1 February.

Cuba Encouraged To Integrate

PA1901035592 Paris AFP in Spanish 2056 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Cartagena, Colombia, 18 Jan (AFP)—Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and Colombian President Cesar Gaviria encouraged Cuba to integrate into Latin America. At the same time, they expressed concern about the political situation in Haiti.

The pronouncements by the two heads of state are outlined in a joint declaration issued in this tourist resort center located on the Colombian Caribbean coast. The joint

declaration was issued within the framework of Prime Minister Gonzalez' official visit from 17-19 January.

Gonzalez and Gaviria also expressed their "satisfaction" for the peace agreements signed on 16 January in Mexico between the Salvadoran Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas.

Regarding Fidel Castro, they both pointed out their "interest for a rapid and thorough integration of Cuba into the Latin America family." They also indicated that Cuba's integration is "an essential requirement to ensure the collective objectives of development and stability in the Caribbean region."

The two heads of state emphasized their "concern for the interruption of democratic order" in Haiti, and expressed their "firmest wish" that the efforts currently undertaken by the Organization of American States (OAS), "will lead to the reestablishment of constitutional order in the shortest possible time." [passage omitted]

Gaviria on Mediation

PA1901160692 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1218 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] The government has ruled out international mediation in the peace negotiations with the guerrillas because it believes the best mechanism is direct dialogue. President Cesar Gaviria has said that he is not interested in possible mediation by Spain in the talks being held with the rebel groups. He added that the government is conducting a direct dialogue and, despite such obstacles as the persistent involvement of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board in terrorist actions, peaceful solutions can be found.

We are not interested in international mediation for peace. We only accept verification, Colombian President Gaviria said. The resumption of the peace talks are scheduled to be held in Caracas on 1 February. The president has said that only on that date will he say if the conditions exist, even though political party spokesmen, who comprise the public order advisory commission, have said that the dialogue will necessarily take place on that date.

Gonzalez on Terrorism

LD1901214292 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 2000 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Report by Cartagena correspondent Javier Arenas on Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's Latin American tour]

[Text] The joint news conference by Prime Minister Gonzalez and Colombian President Cesar Gaviria ended a few moments ago in the convention center from where I am speaking. Here is a quick roundup of the statements:

On ETA terrorism in Spain, the prime minister said: I can understand any concerns the Spanish military might have, because I have them myself. How can there not be irritation at the actions of murdering cowards, cowards with whom no political negotiation is possible, Felipe Gonzalez asks:

[Begin Gonzalez recording] They are simply murderers who do not even take the risk of facing up to the Armed Forces or the police forces. They are simply murderers. [end recording]

That is his categorical statement. There were noteworthy questions and answers on issues of internal and national interest. On corruption, Felipe Gonzalez said it is not true that there is general corruption in Spain. He said: I must defend my country's good name. When I decide not to make any further comment on this, it is I feel unlimited repugnance for those whom I know are corrupt and who go around making pronouncements on this question. I know that they are corrupt, and I keep quiet (?about) their past even in the face of those who venerated the dictatorship.

On Cuba, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said that despite natural differences in views on the present regime, Cuba will be present at any Iberoamerican summit whenever the decision is his . Therefore, Fidel Castro will be able to attend the planned summit in Madrid next July.

Bilateral Agreements Signed

PA1901035292 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Report by Jesus Garzon from Cartagena]

[Text] The Governments of Spain and Colombia signed three basic agreements on 18 January in Cartagena de Indias. In a bilateral document, Colombian President Cesar Gaviria and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez committed themselves to eliminating drug trafficking, cooperating on the peace dialogue, and completing the work on the Medellin metro.

In talks with reporters, the Spanish leader disclosed his government's willingness to assist the Colombian justice system in eliminating drug trafficking.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] The Spanish justice system is willing to cooperate fully to supply evidence that may help the Colombian Government. [end recording]

The Spanish Prime Minister also offered to mediate in the peace dialogue between the Colombian Government and the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board. President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, however, rejected this possibility after reiterating his condemnation of the guerrillas due to continued terrorist attacks.

[Begin Gaviria recording, in progress]....we accept the international verification of the agreements, but we believe that the most appropriate procedure is direct dialogue between the government and the guerrillas. [end recording]

While Felipe Gonzalez is harassed by terrorists of the Basque Fatherland and Liberty in Spain, Cesar Gaviria Trujillo urgently seeks a political solution to the armed conflict in Colombia.

Several Leftist Leaders Reportedly Killed

PA1801021492 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Jan 92 p 8A

[Text] Cartagena, Sincelejo, and Cali—Jafet Ortiz Bohorquez, the leader of the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance (AD/M-19) in southern Bolivar Department was killed in his home by an unidentified man on 9 January.

At 1940 on 9 January, a man arrived at the political leader's home in the San Jose neighborhood while Ortiz was meeting with a group of peasants who are members of the AD/M-19. The man asked for Ortiz and then shot him six times. Heny Ordonez, a 9-year-old girl who is in fourth grade, was wounded in the incident. Ortiz Bohorquez, 49, who is from Cali, was shot twice in the stomach, twice in the heart, once in the jugular vein, and once in the right hand. The police reported that, according to witnesses, the attacker was accompanied by three men riding two Yamaha motorcycles, one red and one black.

Ortiz Bohorquez, a former M-19 combatant, was a comrade of Antonio Navarro Wolff. He was and adviser and the top AD/M-19 leader in southern Bolivar Department for more than three years. He frequently gave advice to peasants on land ownership.

Meanwhile, the murder of M-19 leader Edgar Torres Aparicio and Lawyer Rodolfo Alvarez Ruiz and the disappearance of political leader Etnio Vidarte seem to be part of a chain of violent actions against former militants of the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT) in Valle del Cauca Department.

Torres, Alvarez, and Vidarte were investigating the massacre of 20 indians in Caloto (Cauca), a crime that authorities have not yet uncovered. Torres, a former PRT militant, AD/M-19 leader in Valle del Cauca, and congressional candidate for that movement, was shot to death in front of his wife and two children at his home located in the Santa Elena neighborhood, southwest of Cali. Torres, who graduated from the University of Valle with a major in physics and mathematics, was killed at approximately 2000 on 8 January by two unidentified men who forced him to enter his house where they killed him and then fled in a vehicle that was waiting for them.

Approximately 20 minutes later, Lawyer Rodolfo Alvarez Ruiz, 38, was killed by two bullets in the skull. This incident occurred in the Santa Monica Popular neighborhood. His wife, Myrian Sanchez, was wounded in one knee.

Anthropologist Etnio Vidarte, executive secretary of the New Leadership Movement [Movimiento Nuevo Liderazgo], directed in Valle del Cauca by former governor Mauricio Guzman, was reported missing. Guzman said that Vidarte has not been seen since 8 January, when he was attending a friend's funeral.

It was learned that Torres, Alvarez, and Vidarte were friends, were PRT members, and were linked to activities to help widows and orphans of the 20 indians killed in the Caloto massacre in mid-December.

Torres has close ties with the congressional commission investigating the massacre, and he received legal advice from Lawyer Alvarez and from anthropologist Vidarte.

Agreement With Venezuela on Common Custom Tariff

PA1701221792 Paris AFP in Spanish 1848 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, Jan 16 (AFP)—On 16 January, Colombian Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos announced that Venezuela and Colombia have gone beyond their Andean Pact partners (Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru) and agreed on a common customs tariff for products from third countries. This measure will unite the countries regarding customs.

The minister explained that the two countries classified 6,000 tariff items at the levels established by the Andean presidents during the Andean Pact presidential summit in Cartagena, Colombia held in December 1991.

The five presidents established the tariff levels at 5, 10, 15, and 20 percent and agreed to start an Andean free trade zone on 1 January 1992. It was also established that Ecuador and Peru would be given additional time and allowed to join this endeavor on July 1992.

Despite the presidential dictate, the five Andean commerce ministers did not reach an agreement in Santa Fe de Bogota at the end of December 1991, so an agreement was not reached.

Due to this fiasco, Colombia and Venezuela decided to continue the process accepted by the presidents in Cartagena and separated from Ecuador and Peru.

Minister Santos stated they only had to define the items for the petrochemical and automotive sectors with Venezuela, which would be done during the current week. He added that he trusted the agreement between Colombia and Venezuela would serve as a basis for negotiations with the other members of the Andean group.

Peru

Fujimori Invites Borja To Visit, Settle Dispute

PA1801044492 Paris AFP in Spanish 1709 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Lima, 16 Jan (AFP)—President Alberto Fujimori said on 15 January he had invited Ecuadoran President

Rodrigo Borja to visit Peru in June to seek a final solution to the border dispute between the two countries. The president's statement was reported on 17 January in Lima.

"If possible, we also expect President Borja's successor (from May elections)" to visit, Fujimori told a group of local reporters after attending a musical event at Lima's Municipal Theater on 15 January.

"The progress we have achieved cannot be set back," he said when asked if Borja's insistence on calling for the pope's arbitration—announced to a Lima television station following the president's visit to Quito last week—might foil the negotiations that had started there.

The head of state emphasized the people's reaction toward him during his 48-hour visit to Ecuador. "The Ecuadoran people have their own opinion about this, and that is important," he added.

Peru proposed the Vatican appoint an expert to settle Ecuador's territorial demands in the Amazon Basin, with the participation of countries that are guarantors to the Rio de Janeiro Border Protocol signed by the two countries on 29 January 1942.

The guarantor countries are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States.

Army General Victor Malca, minister of defense, said, contrary to what was reported in Quito, "the pullout of troops and guard posts from the border area" was never discussed in the protocol meeting held last week with his Ecuadoran counterpart, Jorge Felix.

"The military pullout depends on talks between the two foreign ministries," Malca said. He stressed "all President (Fujimori) proposed is endorsed by the Armed Forces."

On his return from Ecuador, Fujimori proposed a simultaneous pullout of the Pachacutec (Peruvian) and Lieutenant Ortiz (Ecuadoran) military detachments, posted at one of the border areas that has yet to be demarcated.

It was noted that a probable infiltration of the "Lt. Ortiz" detachment several kilometers inside Peruvian territory last August created a risk of armed conflict. This led to a gentlemen's agreement to create a security zone and the recent presidential meeting in Quito. Despite parliamentary members' displeasure with Borja's statements to Lima's Panamericana Television, there is still hope it did not represent an official statement from the Ecuadoran Government.

"I think President Borja has yet to make a decision. I imagine he must take some time to analyze the proposal about an expert," Senator Luis Bustamante of the neoliberal Liberty Movement stated.

Further Reaction to Ecuadoran Border Request

PA1801180592 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2228 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Lima, 16 Jan (NOTIMEX)—On 16 January, Peruvian political leaders termed as "untimely and impertinent" the demand made by Ecuadoran Defense Minister Jorge Felix for a Peruvian detachment to withdraw from the border area.

The Congress has also decided to summon Peruvian Defense Minister General Victor Malca, who held a sudden meeting with President Alberto Fujimori at the government palace on 16 January.

Enrique Bernales, member of the Senate Foreign Relations Commission, deplored the high-ranking Ecuadoran officer's statements, because "they tend to obstruct the situation when every effort is being made to find a logical solution."

He reasserted that military commanders should not give their opinion about politics and should not assume belligerent positions, which only governments should do.

Bernales added that the demand made by the Ecuadoran general is untimely, because "what matters is the tree, not the forest of half a century of estrangement" that exists between Peru and Ecuador because of a territorial dispute.

The Ecuadoran defense minister said on 14 January that during a meeting in Quito he asked Gen. Malca to remove the "Pachacutec" guard post from the border.

Malca denied to the local media that they discussed the pullout of Peruvian military troops from the Chinipinza zone.

Oswaldo Garcia, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies defense commission, said on 17 January the Peruvian troops will remain at their posts, just as Ecuador maintains its guard post at the border.

He added that zones that are not yet delimited are subject to the supervision of a technical expert from the Vatican, according to the Peruvian proposal.

Fujimori proposed the alternative to Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja during his official visit to Quito last week to culminate the demarcation of the Cusumaza-Bumbuiza and Yaupi-Santiago areas.

Peru and Ecuador share a border of more than 1,600 km, including a 78-km area in the Condor mountain range that lacks boundary posts and has been the site of military clashes for 50 years.

The Peruvian proposal surprised Ecuadoran political groups, because Borja requested during a speech at UN headquarters in late September that Pope John Paul II mediate to solve the problem.

Borja said on 14 January that his government is carefully evaluating Fujimori's proposal. He admitted, however, that it differs from the Ecuadoran position.

Meanwhile, the national Congress has summoned Peruvian Defense Minister General Victor Malca to present a report on the position he will adopt at a meeting with high-ranking Ecuadoran Army commanders.

Fujimori on Need To Trim Annual Budget

PA1801020992 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has said he does not accept the position Congress has taken against making observations on the annual budget law for 1992. The president flatly noted that observations can be made on any law, adding that the executive branch will use budget resources as rationally as possible.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] I am charging before the people that Law 20530, which is in practice called a living document [cedula viva], was extended through a mechanism approved by the Congress in an illegal and grievous manner to cover officials and employees who are not entitled to it. I already mentioned cases involving managers of the State Petroleum Agency [Petroperu], for example, whose salaries have been brought up to date. It would also seem that the lawmakers, I mean former lawmakers, will receive salaries that are at the same level as that of current lawmakers. You can imagine what this means for government expenses, chiefly because the resources for other budget items are reduced, since that money has to come from somewhere.

That is why I made observations on the law approved by Congress. I suppose it will be debated in this extraordinary legislative session, but I hope it will not be approved. I think to give these sorts of retirement pensions to people who do not deserve them will have very grave consequences for the country. The public sector certainly deserves it, and that is included in the law. Public employees are fully entitled to it, but officials of Petroperu and private enterprises, I mean public enterprises governed by private laws, let alone the lawmakers, are not. In fact, lawmakers have to set the example in this respect. I again make this appeal and have to demand that austerity be maintained.

[Unidentified reporter] Does the personnel reduction or restructuring of the Chamber of Deputies's in any way meet the government's demands?

[Fujimori] We should have a personnel adjustment at all levels. It is acknowledged that 2,000 employees in the Chamber of Deputies is excessive. Its budget is also excessive. Let me remind you that the Chamber of Deputies has allocated itself $83 million. No matter how many social benefits payments have to be made, such a high figure cannot be.

[Reporter] Do you think the personnel reduction should be in line with the budget reduction?

[Fujimori] There should be a personnel adjustment at any rate, and there should be a substantial—I mean substantial—budget reduction for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

[Reporter] The Congress, however, has not accepted your observations and noted that observations cannot be made on the budget law. A solution would be for the Executive Branch to send a bill with its observations so they can be considered in the agenda of the extraordinary legislative session. Will the executive branch do that?

[Fujimori] From a legal standpoint, I do not accept that stance. Observations can be made on every law, chief of all on the budget law, because the executive branch is responsible for handling the economy. On this aspect it has all the more reason to make observations. That is why I regret the stance they adopted. I think it is harmful. However, as the person responsible for the economic program and the country's recovery, I will make rational use of available resources. The fact that $83 million has been included in the budget does not mean we will be able to carry out our plans. Caring for social needs will receive priority attention.

[Reporter] So the executive branch is definitely not going to submit a bill to amend the budget law.

[Fujimori] Not right now. Let me repeat, this would be to recognize that no observations can be made on the budget law, and I cannot accept that.

[Reporter] What mechanism will you use?

[Fujimori] To use resources as rationally as possible, establishing priorities. Since we clearly cannot meet all demands, we are going to establish priorities. Meeting social needs comes first; for example, the glass of milk program, child care, and hospitals. [end recording]

Shining Path Rebels Kill 15 People in 24 Hours

PA1701230492 Paris AFP in Spanish 2304 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Lima, 16 Jan (AFP)—The police officer killed by a terrorist commando group on 16 January represents the 15th person that the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla group have killed within 24 hours in different parts of Peru, it was reported by the police.

According to police reports, two NCOs, a justice of the peace, and at least 12 peasants were killed by the subversives.

The sources added that the terrorists' sabotage actions have also increased the country's crime rate. Many robberies were perpetrated and 12 women were raped by criminals during a blackout which suddenly occurred last night in certain neighborhoods of Lima.

Another police officer was killed by Shining Path members on 15 January, 400 meters from the police station in Huaral—a community mostly populated by people of Japanese origin—65 km north of Lima.

At least 12 peasant members of the self-defense groups that fight against the Maoist guerrilla group were killed by a subversive column comprised of approximately 50 guerrilla fighters. The event occurred in the village of Villa Victoria, Satipo Province, located approximately 350 km east of Lima.

The Shining Path members also wounded six members of the self-defense groups, set fire to several huts, and rounded up the people in the local square where they organized a rally and urged people to support the "armed struggle" before leaving the area. An Armed Forces patrol was sent to chase the rebels in the jungle.

In the Department of Ancash, another Shining Path column attacked the town of Pallasca, 450 km northeast of Lima, killing Alcides Zuniga, a justice of the peace. Judge Zuniga was killed before his own relatives after being subjected to a "popular trial," reported Juan Torre, department chief administrative officer.

The terrorists, who took advantage of the darkness caused by the destruction of energy pylons, attacked the police station with explosive charges and destroyed public buildings, municipal offices, and the Bank of the Nation, among other facilities. After seizing 11 boxes of explosives, they fled into the Andean highlands.

In Lima, the sudden and frequent energy outages resulting from the terrorist attacks against high tension pylons last December have generated an increase in crime. This has become a serious problem for authorities.

Among other criminal actions on 15 January, at least 12 women were raped in poor neighborhoods of the capital. Meanwhile, according to the police, the thefts against citizens and drivers and the robberies of private homes have increased by 50 percent thanks to the blackouts.

The Peruvian capital is also currently subjected to a drastic potable water rationing as a result of the restrictions on energy use.

State of Emergency Extended in Some Departments

PA1701191692 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1811 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Due to continued subversive violence, the executive branch has extended the state of emergency in various parts of the country at the request of the Defense Ministry.

The state of emergency will continue for the next 60 days in the Departments of Apurimac and Ucayali, the Province of Puerto Inca in Huanuco and the city of Ucayali in Loreto.

Therefore, individual constitutional rights are suspended and the Armed Forces will continue to maintain internal order in those places.

Uruguay

Lacalle, Paraguay's Rodriguez Discuss Relations

PY1701143092 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Excerpts] President Lacalle welcomed yesterday Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez who arrived in Punta del Este just after 1500. After a brief meeting with President Lacalle, General Rodriguez handled some private matters. The two presidents are scheduled to meet again today at 1000. [passage omitted]

During their two-hour meeting, which will also be attended by government delegations from the two countries, the two presidents will discuss issues of bilateral interest. The two presidents will also discuss Mercosur [Common Market of the South] issues. Paraguay has already established an Integration Ministry for this purpose and Paraguayan Integration Minister Juan Carlos Wasmosy visited Punta del Este last weekend.

In addition to Mercosur issues, today's agenda includes the waterway project, a transportation agreement, environment programs, and other issues of bilateral interest.

After the meeting to be held at the Maldonado municipal building, the two presidents will hold a news conference. Rodriguez is scheduled to end his official visit to Uruguay this afternoon at 1500 after attending a luncheon in his honor that President Luis Alberto Lacalle will host in his private residence. President Rodriguez will not return to his country immediately after this meeting. As he does every year, President Rodriguez will remain in Uruguay on a private visit vacationing at the Punta del Este resort.

PIT-CNT Strike Restricts Transportation

PY1701135892 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Public service transportation is scarce this morning in view of the general strike that has been in force as of 0000. As is well-known, the PIT-CNT [Inter-Union Workers Plenum-National Convention of Workers] decided to stage a 24-hour strike. The date for this stoppage, which was originally scheduled sometime in the near future, was moved forward in view of the violent eviction of workers from FUNSA [Uruguayan Tire Plant, Inc.]. Workers occupied FUNSA for several days before they were evicted by authorities.

As in previous strikes, this 24-hour general strike—the first this year—will cause more harm than good. Because of it, there is a restricted passenger service. The bus transportation service is offering an emergency service until 2000.

Bus Transportation 'Scarce'

PY1701212692 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Excerpt] A general strike ordered by the PIT-CNT [Inter-Union Workers Plenum-National Convention of Workers] is being held normally today.

Although government officials and union leaders disagree on the result of the strike, it can be observed that interdepartmental urban bus transportation is scarce and some private activities are affected. The strike is total in the public sector with the exception of the Social Security Bank, where pensions are being paid. Emergency services in the public and private health centers, where doctors did not support the strike, are being provided normally.

Union leader Hugo de Mello told this radio station that an evaluation of the strike indicates that a high percentage obeyed the strike. He added that this strike is not the last one; the strikes will continue next week. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Free Trade Agreement Signed With El Salvador

PA2001193492 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] El Salvador and Venezuela signed a free trade agreement. The Salvadoran Ministry of Economy reported that 130 Salvadoran products will enter the Venezuelan market in the next few days, as part of the commercial agreement signed by both nations.

Agroindustrial products and textiles are listed among the duty-free products that El Salvador will export to Venezuela.

Spain's Gonzalez To Arrive for Bilateral Talks

LD1901214192 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Venezuela closes Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's Latin American tour this week. After visiting Mexico to attend the El Salvadoran peace agreement signing and Colombia to discuss various bilateral issues, the prime minister will take advantage of a technical stopover in Venezuela on his way back to Spain to meet President Carlos Andres Perez. Gonzalez is arriving in Caracas amid a degree of controversy that has arisen following a letter that the Spanish prime minister sent to the Venezuelan president. Gonzalez' letter urges Perez to conclude the approval of the credit law to be able to hand over the $1.2 billion agreed in the cooperation treaty signed in Madrid two years ago. Gonzalez' letter reads that the law should be approved before the end of February. Granting the $1.2 billion is designed to generate trade exchanges of nearly $3 billion between 1990 and 1994.

Gonzalez Meets With Perez

LD2001140792 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 0700 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Report by Caracas correspondent Javier Arenas on Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's Latin American tour]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Caracas was the final stopover for Gonzalez this morning for dialogue with Carlos Andres Perez. As in the other discussions, Cuba was mentioned. The shared idea is that the Cuban nation should not be considered marginal. Its full integration into the Ibero-American community is desired, although the Havana regime's democratic evolution is also sought. [passage omitted]

Negotiations on Teachers' Dispute To Resume

PA1801040192 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Classes will continue normally throughout the country and the discussions between the representatives of teachers' associations and the Education Ministry will resume on 21 January in an attempt to reach an agreement to avert an explosion of the education conflict.

That was the result of a lengthy meeting between the parties involved in the conflict at the Labor Tribunal in the presence of Cesar Gil, who represented the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers [CTV] and served as mediator.

The educators are maintaining their position. They want a 20 percent increase in salaries owed them since 1 May 1991.

[Begin recording] [Gil] I am virtually certain that the proposal that the deputy minister is carrying to the government will be acceptable to the Education Ministry and the national government. Our final position is that the 1991 portion of the 20 percent salary increase—owed to teachers since 1 May by virtue of a presidential decree—be negotiated. A single bond could be involved. However, we want teachers' salaries increased by 20 percent as of 1 January 1992.

The other clauses dealing with bonuses...[pauses] Of course, this 20 percent would affect all bonuses that teachers currently receive. The other aspects, including bonus increases, end-of-year bonuses, vacations, and so on, would be dealt with in a new collective bargaining agreement the discussion of which should start in May at the latest. It should start between March and May.

[Deputy Education Minister Francisco Castillo] At this time I would say that we are very close to reaching an understanding. This afternoon's meeting between the Labor Ministry and the CTV was cordial. On 21 January we will make certain estimates, come up with certain figures, and definitely reach an understanding.

At this point the most important thing to underscore is that the possibility of a new conflict in the education system is increasingly less likely. [Carlos Andueza, of the Conflict Committee] We upheld our position as reflected by our list of demands. The ministry failed to reach any agreement with us, but offered to study our proposal and give us a reply that will take into account our aspirations. [end recording]

Students Protest Despite Subsidized Fares

PA1701164792 Paris AFP in Spanish 2046 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Caracas, 16 Jan (AFP)—The government's decision to subsidize student transportation costs could not prevent the wave of student protests in Venezuela. Once again, protests similar to the ones that shook the country during the end of 1991, erupted on 16 January in five cities.

At least four persons; two policemen and two women passers-by were injured in Los Teques, 30 km south of Caracas, where students holding a "Protest Day" burned two buses, blocked traffic and attacked police with molotov cocktails.

In the industrial cities of Maracay and Barquisimeto, 60 and 250 km west of Caracas respectively, local high school students protesting against obstacles to obtain student fare subsidies, clashed with the police, built barricades, and burned several trucks and buses.

In Barinas, 420 km southwest of Caracas, several thousand students and professors, marched peacefully in a "University Dignity March." They were demanding more resources from the government for the public universities.

In Caracas, two dozen university students congregated at the front entrance of the cathedral and staged a peaceful "Day of Reflection and Meditation" in defense of public university education.

Meanwhile, residents of Guarenas, 25 km from Caracas, which has been experiencing a drastic shortage of potable water, once again conducted protest marches due to the lack of water. The first protest march by this community occurred during the first week of January.

The famous "Caracazo," a week of disorders and looting that had to be repressed leaving 400 dead, 2,000 injured, and $150 million in direct losses, started in Guarenas on 27 February 1989.

To avoid another violent protest, the government of President Carlos Andres Perez last week established a "preferential fare" for students, who will only pay ⅓ of transportation fares. Mayors were asked to implement the agreement.

President Perez' decision followed three months of student demonstrations between October and December 1991 which left 12 people dead—including six students—and forced the government to suspend classes before the end of the year.

The impatient secondary school students rebelled again on 16 January protesting the slowness or inefficiency of the government instructions and at the same time, honoring the memory of the students who fell during last year's riots.

Last year, student protests turned out to be the "Achilles' heel" of the economic adjustment plan agreed to by President Perez and the IMF, which includes an increase in the price of gasoline, to which students are opposed.

Despite the protests and the numerous voices demanding a modification of the Perez-IMF plan—including leaders of the ruling Democratic Action Party—the president firmly continues implementing the plan.

In addition, the government recently accused subversive groups, remnants of leftist guerrillas currently reorganizing themselves, of inciting student riots to create a climate to destabilize the current system.

The Venezuelan school year—already adjusted following the suspension of classes in December—could be further affected if teachers and professors carry out a strike announced for 16 January, if the government does not pay them outstanding payments.